

LONDON (R) — Britons tired of press coverage of the royal family's monarchy, an opinion poll showed Sunday. The poll, by the Independent on Sunday, said 80 per cent of the 1,100 adults questioned said they were fed up with the royal family's antics and tribulations. The poll also found that 66 per cent of those questioned would continue to follow the monarchy, but only 35 per cent of those questioned would follow the royal family's antics. The poll also found that 66 per cent of those questioned would continue to follow the monarchy, but only 35 per cent of those questioned would follow the royal family's antics.

NEW accuser of Diana's hoar calls

LONDON (AFP) — A friend of the Princess Diana was quoted as saying she had received a phone call from a man who said he had been involved in the princess's death. The friend said the man had been in the car with the princess and that he had seen her being hit by the truck. The friend said the man had been in the car with the princess and that he had seen her being hit by the truck.

Turner to undergo cancer operation

ANTARA (R) — Television star Ted Turner was scheduled to undergo surgery to remove a cancerous tumor from his prostate gland. Turner, 55, was diagnosed with prostate cancer in 1993. He is currently undergoing treatment and is expected to return to work in the near future.

Bhutto cancels Gaza visit

ISLAMABAD (AFP) — Pakistan's Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto has cancelled a planned visit to the Gaza Strip on the advice of PLO leader Yasser Arafat. Bhutto was scheduled to visit the Gaza Strip as part of a tour of the Middle East. The cancellation was announced on Monday.

Israel splits Ibrahim mosque between Jews, Muslims

HEBRON, West Bank (R) — Israel has split in two the shrine where a Jew slaughtered some 30 Muslims and has installed extensive surveillance equipment to prevent clashes between worshippers, a Muslim religious official said on Monday. In February, Jewish settler Baruch Goldstein shot dead the kneeling Muslim worshippers in the Ibrahim Mosque also known as the Tomb of the Patriarchs which is sacred to both faiths. Zaid Al Ja'bari, an official in Hebron's Islamic Waqf authority who visited the shrine, said the division between Jews and Muslims left most of the shrine in Jewish hands. He said the Israeli army had installed three huge iron doors, 14 cameras and 61 screening devices in recent days. He said the division effectively left only the tomb of Isaac in the sector where Muslims would be allowed to pray. The tombs of Abraham and Jacob would be under Jewish control. Israeli officials said this week they wanted to reopen the shrine soon. Mr. Ja'bari said efforts were under way to reopen the shrine by the Jewish new year beginning Sept. 5. The site has often been the focus of Arab-Jewish violence, but none more brutal than the Feb. 25 slaughter at the complex's Ibrahim mosque. Middle East peace talks were disrupted by the killings.

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PLO, Israel sign early empowerment deal

EREZ, Gaza Strip (Agencies) — Israel and the PLO signed an agreement on Monday giving Palestinians of the West Bank control over five spheres of civilian government which had been run by Israel for 27 years. "This is a small step but an important one," PLO negotiator Nabil Shaath said before signing the agreement with Israeli Major-General Danny Rothchild at an Israeli army base just inside the Gaza Strip. Under the agreement, Israel transfers control over education, health, taxation, tourism and social welfare in a deal called "early empowerment." Israel occupied the West Bank and Gaza during the Middle East war of 1967. "It is a step that opens the way for the full interim agreement in the West Bank," said Dr. Shaath. "Early empowerment is a start, spreading the Palestinian authority in specific spheres in the West Bank." "Now we have to address ourselves to... elections, transfer of authority, redeployment. All this will be on our agenda as soon as we implement the agreement." Said Gen. Rothchild: "I hope the implementation will be at least as good as the agreement." The signing was delayed for more than two hours. Dr. Shaath said this was due to a Palestinian protest at Israel's turning back a Pakistani diplomat trying to visit the autonomous Gaza Strip. Israel blamed the delay on a need to make a few small changes. The handover is the second phase of a year-old peace deal. Palestinian self-rule, including an armed police force, began in Gaza and the West Bank town of Jericho in May and is due to spread to other parts of the West Bank. Israeli officials said education was already changing hands on the ground, while dates for the transfer of other powers would be set just after a conference in Paris on Sept. 8-10 of countries helping to finance the handover. "Israel and the Palestinians will jointly present a request to this conference," Israeli Foreign Ministry legal adviser Joel Singer told Israeli army radio on Monday. "On the basis of the answer we get from the donor countries... we will reach agreement on the (dates for) transfer of the rest of authority." Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres said before signing it was a historic event. "It will mean for the first time in history that the Palestinians will be able to educate their own children in their own language in their own tradition — something that has never happened under the British or the Turks or the Jordanians (or) anybody else," Mr. Peres told Israeli radio. According to Gen. Rothchild, \$60 million are needed to transfer powers. Half is to be collected from Palestinian taxes, and the rest from donors. The Israelis say further talks on the expansion of self-rule depend on efficient management of the devolved powers. For the time being Israel retains control over everything outside the five core areas on the West Bank. Under the Declaration of Principles for autonomy signed Sept. 13 in Washington, the Israeli army in the West Bank must redeploy and the Palestinian police take over there before elections can be held. This is complicated by the presence of 110,000 Jewish settlers on the West Bank, and particularly by the presence of some 400 settlers in Hebron, where an Israeli killed 29 Palestinians in a mosque on Feb. 25. "Before talking about elections, the transfer of powers must go into effect," Hannis Yeshouroun, Gen. Rothchild's spokeswoman told AFP. "This is not expected before mid-September because of financial difficulties." Palestinians insist their priority is to negotiate elections to the self-rule council which have already been postponed twice and are now set for Dec. 15. Future negotiations remain under a cloud following Friday's killing of two Israelis by Hamas militants inside Israel. Environment Minister Yossi Sarid has warned, "if the Palestinians do not convince us they are doing their utmost to fight terrorism, the continuation of negotiations with them will be compromised." Israel has requested the extradition from the Gaza Strip of the Palestinian Muslim fundamentalists suspected of killing two Israelis, military officials said Monday. The officials did not name



MAKING PEACE: Palestinian negotiator Nabil Shaath (top-left) and his Israeli counterpart Gen. Danny Rothchild (left) exchange copies of a landmark agreement they signed Monday at the crossing point between Gaza and Israel (AFP photo) and (below), Jordan's chief negotiator ambassador Fayez Tarawneh (left) and his Israeli counterpart Elyakim Rubinstein negotiate at the Dead Sea Hotel (photo by Youssef Allam)



Jordanian, Israeli experts end 2 days of 'productive' talks

From Narmeen Murad at the Dead Sea Spa Hotel

EXPERTS FROM Jordan, Israel and the U.S. ended two days of talks here Monday satisfied that their meetings, albeit short, will constitute a "productive" step towards upcoming bilateral and trilateral negotiations. While committees, both trilateral and bilateral, went into extensive meetings in this treatment spa, Danny Rothchild, the chief Israeli negotiator on the Palestinian-Israeli track, dropped in for a short surprise visit during which he briefed the Jordanian chief negotiator Fayez Tarawneh and his Israeli counterpart Elyakim Rubinstein on the agreement for early Palestinian empowerment in the West Bank. Dr. Tarawneh, asked about the substance of his meeting with Gen. Rothchild, said he had received a "briefing" on the early empowerment agreement and that Jordan extends its "good wishes for the Palestinians in their new task." "We hope that it will move as smoothly as expected," Dr. Tarawneh said adding that Jordan hopes that all the details of the early empowerment would be completed soon "so that they can move into other steps especially the redeployment of Israeli forces and holding elections." Mr. Rubinstein told reporters that Gen. Rothchild's meeting with himself and Dr. Tarawneh was at the request of the Israeli delegation and the "consent" of the Jordanian delegation to "brief us on what is happening." "This is part of the exchange between us and the Jordanians and it was fruitful," said Mr. Rubinstein. Neither side would reveal the details of the meeting. While Israeli and Jordanian negotiators continued their regular bilateral meetings on water, security and boundary demarcation, most of the meetings held Sunday and Monday were on the trilateral sub-groups level to discuss the Jordan rift valley joint plan that covers tourism, transportation, a joint national park, customs, trade and agriculture. The most concrete talks were on ways to translate several draft masterplans, both Jordanian and Israeli, into practical steps that could pave the road for a joint commission that would carry feasibility studies on the different projects entailed in the plan. A summary report of the expert-level meetings, distributed to the press at the end of the talks, said Israel and Jordan exchanged draft terms of reference documents and an agreement was reached to finalise the joint terms of reference by the end of September. The joint terms of reference will determine what the objectives of the joint projects are, what sectors are going to study the different projects as well as whether the master plan will deal with the Jordan rift valley as a "broad area" from the beginning or as a "zone" in the different stages of development along the valley line. Although no disagreement arose between the Israeli and Jordanian sides, the two parties appeared to be bagging over whether to concentrate their feasibility studies for a Red Sea-Dead Sea canal, which is Jordan's preference, or adopt a wider perspective towards the issue by allowing for the consideration of four alternatives. These alternatives include a Mediterranean Sea-Dead Sea canal, which would mean digging a tunnel under the Hebron mountains, a northern canal which would run through Haifa, Beisan and then drop 200 metres to produce energy (the Jordanian vision for a Red-Dead canal), or the fourth option of building a desalination plant near the Mediterranean. Both sides appeared sure, though, that they would be able to reach agreement on the "canal" versus "canals" issue by the deadline for producing a joint terms of reference in September. Following is the statement issued Monday by the three groups of Jordanian, American and Israeli experts who concluded their meetings yesterday at the Dead Sea: The trilateral sub-group on tourism agreed that the Jordanian-Israeli committee on tourism will meet on September 12-13 in Israel to discuss marketing. The meeting will also review recommendations for joint activities at the November Convention of the American

King, Kohl discuss bilateral relations

BONN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Monday held a meeting with German Chancellor Helmut Kohl and reviewed Jordanian-German relations and scopes of bilateral cooperation in the political and economic fields with the German leader. King Hussein briefed the chancellor on the developments in the Middle East peace process and the progress achieved on the Jordanian-Israeli track following the Washington Declaration. The King also discussed with the German leader investment opportunities that the climate of peace had created in the region and in Jordan in particular. The King discussed with Chancellor Kohl Jordan's needs of German expertise in the economic field in order to help the Kingdom meet the requirements of the coming era. King Hussein, who is on his second day of his current visit to Germany, reaffirmed the Middle East countries determination to pursue peace following years of conflict that have drained their human and material resources and left behind severe economic hardships. He said that the hoped-for peace was bound to help the region attain stability and security for all its people. Earlier in the day the King met Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel. In Berlin, the King met the minister of culture. Accompanied by Her Majesty Queen Noor, the King and the accompanying delegation made a sight-seeing tour of the city. The King and the Queen met with the mayor of Berlin and other city notables and

Majali: Peace treaty after resolution of border, water issues

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali has reassured Jordan's position that a peace treaty with Israel cannot be signed before reaching solutions to the problems of borders, water and security, but added that the negotiation strategy of the Kingdom has been to maintain a delicate balance between the need to solve these problems and sustaining the momentum of the peace process. "Jordan has always been prepared to sign a peace treaty with Israel, given that the outstanding issues are negotiated and settled to the satisfaction of all," Dr. Majali said in a speech he delivered at the California-based Rand Foundation on behalf of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Sunday. "But a peace treaty has to have a content and we are currently working on building its content. We do not want to ignore thorny problems... for we know that a worthwhile (peace) treaty must anticipate such problems and provide appropriate mechanisms for their resolution," Dr. Majali said. Dr. Majali said that the Kingdom seeks to delineate its borders with Israel according to those established by the League of Nations between Jordan and Palestine in 1922, adding that Jordan and Israel have committed themselves to definitively demarcating their boundaries and agreed upon the modalities for this undertaking. "In terms of water," he said, "we seek to ascertain our equitable share of the common waters of the Jordan and Yarmouk rivers and to work out modalities for future cooperation over water for broad regional cooperation." Dr. Majali added that Jordan and Israel are committed to the proper management, development and conservation of existing water resources. He said that Jordan and Israel have also agreed to refrain from any actions that could be detrimental to each other's security. "These achievements are not to be taken lightly. They indicate the best of intentions, and promise much; but they do not as yet constitute the substance of just, lasting and comprehensive peace as envisaged by U.N. Security Council resolutions 242 and 338," Dr. Majali said in the speech. The prime minister said in the speech that the recent breakthroughs in the Jordanian-Israeli track of the peace negotiations did not "come out of the blue" but were a "delayed response to the logical progression of the Madrid peace process." These breakthroughs took place "against a background of considered long term and carefully negotiated peace-making," Dr. Majali stressed. Dr. Majali said that the peace process will alter the role of the military in the region. But for Jordan, he said, the transition to a state of peace would not require a drastic change of orientation as the country never sought offensive military capabilities. "However, Jordan must be able to deter or contain external military threats, guarantee secure borders, counter all forms of extremism and terrorism and participate in regional and global peacekeeping operations under the United Nations," Dr. Majali said. He said the Kingdom's armed forces must be reorganised and modernised if they are to continue performing those tasks successfully, saying that this objective will not be attained without the help of the international community. The prime minister said that an exceptional debt relief effort for the Kingdom is required if the country is to continue supporting the peace process and its democratisation and economic liberalisation processes. "For Jordan, ... the paramount issue remains that of (foreign) debt. The \$7 billion overhang which we accumulated as a direct result of the conflict represents a real obstacle to our progressive policies," Dr. Majali said. He said it is very hard to attract investment, upgrade infrastructure and participate in regional projects with this debt burden. Dr. Majali said that international investment in development projects in the region are essential for long term development. He said the private sector can play a key role in creating an enduring structure to tackle the over-arching problems of the economies of the region: disparities created by conflict, overextended public sectors and addition to aid on the one hand and oil revenues on the other. "An economic framework, covering human cooperation, resources cooperation and security is needed," the prime minister said. (For full text of the speech, see page 7).

Algerian, Moroccan rift deepens

ALGIERS (AFP) — Algerian authorities mobilised the country's entire transport network Monday to bring home its citizens currently in Morocco, as a diplomatic rift deepened between the two neighbouring North African states. The ministry of transport ordered all state-run transport companies to help stranded Algerian citizens, most of them holiday-makers, calling on people to report either to Casablanca airport in Morocco or to border posts where buses are being provided. Morocco imposed a visa requirement on Algerian nationals last week after Moroccan police said they had arrested two French nationals of Algerian origin believed to have been behind the slaying of two Spanish tourists. Algeria closed its land border in retaliation and said Moroccan would need to make a detour there to pick up more travellers. On Monday morning AFP reporters observed some 500 Algerians waiting under a pounding sun at the main border crossing at Zouj Bghal, in north-western Algeria, most of them cutting short holidays, and many returning from family visits. The transport mobilisation comes after Algerians summoned Rabat's charge d'affaires to issue a protest after reports that Algerian nationals in Morocco were being harassed following the visa crackdown. "We had the feeling that overnight we had become thieves, crooks, undesirable," one passenger arriving on Sunday's Casablanca flight told the newspaper L'Opinion, in a report published Monday. The paper also cited the case of a family on holiday in a small village, "who were given one hour by the police to pack their bags." But Moroccan at the Zouj Bghal crossing also complained Mouday about harassment at the hands of the Algerians. Abdeljalil Touzali, crossing the country from Libya with his family for a visit to his home in Fes, told AFP he had earlier been "grossly insulted" and "threatened with a gun" by an Algerian customs officer. "If the (Moroccan) king could hear us, he would cut all links with this country," he said sobbing. The precise number of Algerians currently in Morocco is not known, but on average some three million travel there annually since 1988 when the two countries reopened their border, closed since 1975 because of tension over the former Spanish colony of Western Sahara. The tension resurfaced after remarks by Algerian President Liamine Zeroual last week criticising Morocco's seizure of the territory, saying there was still an "illegally occupied country" in Africa. Then on Friday Moroccan police said they had arrested two French nationals of Algerian origin described as "members of an armed group," accused of being responsible for the killing of two Spanish tourists in Marakesh Wednesday (see story page 2).

Bhutto cancels Gaza visit

ISLAMABAD (AFP) — Pakistan's Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto has cancelled a planned visit to the Gaza Strip on the advice of PLO leader Yasser Arafat, a foreign ministry spokesman announced Monday. Palestinian Liberation Organisation (PLO) chief Arafat had advised the visit be called off in view of "difficulties raised by Israeli authorities," the spokesman said. Mr. Arafat had informed Pakistan that the matter would be taken up with the United Nations Security Council as a "violation" of the PLO-Israeli peace agreement, he added. Mr. Bhutto had planned to travel to the Palestinian-ruled Gaza Strip from Egypt, where she is scheduled to attend a United Nations World Conference in Cairo Sunday through Tuesday. A diplomatic row began Sunday when Israeli authorities stopped Pakistani ambassador to Egypt Mansoor Alam at the Rafah crossing point on his way to Gaza to prepare for Ms. Bhutto's visit. The Palestinian Authority protested to Israel, with top PLO negotiator and Palestinian international cooperation minister Nabil Shaath saying that Ms. Bhutto's trip might be cancelled because of the incident. Ms. Bhutto would have been the first head of government to visit the Gaza Strip since it began self-rule in May. Israel's Deputy Foreign Minister Yossi Beilin warned Sunday that Bhutto would have to make a formal request to Israel if she wanted to visit the autonomous zone. In Tel Aviv, Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin accused Ms. Bhutto of bad manners in preparing an aborted visit to the self-rule Gaza Strip without informing Israel. "Until now now one has behaved like this lady from Pakistan and I advise her to learn some manners," Mr. Rabin said. "It is out of the question for Israel to hear about such visits through the media. They should make a formal request to visit Gaza," he told reporters after visiting a scientific foundation. In Islamabad, the Associated Press of Pakistan announced Monday that the visit would take place alongside a trip to Egypt from Sept. 4-6, but in the evening a foreign ministry spokesman

Arabs snub U.S. call to end Israel ban ahead of economic meet

By Nadim Kawash
Agence France Presse

ABU DHABI — Arab states have again snubbed U.S. appeals to lift an economic boycott of Israel in fear this will strip them from the last bargaining chip in the Mideast peace negotiations.

Their rejection came ahead of an unprecedented economic conference that will bring together senior officials and businessmen from Israel and its Arab neighbours as well as the United States, Russia and other countries.

Boycott offices in several Gulf Arab states, contacted by AFP said they had been given no new advice concerning the 42-year-old sanctions. The boycott, direct and indirect, is still in force. We received a new instruction: one boycott official said.

U.S. President Bill Clinton, addressing a Jewish gathering in Chicago on Wednesday, made a last appeal for Arab states to lift the ban, which he said was the "relic of a bygone era but cannot possibly be justified."

It was the latest call by the West for Arabs to remove the boycott since a breakthrough occurred in the Middle East peace process last year, when Israel and Palestinians signed their landmark autonomy accord.

But Arabs have repeatedly turned down the calls on the grounds the reasons for imposing the sanctions still existed, including Israeli occupation of Arab land and the presence of Jewish settlements.

Syria and Lebanon, the only two Arab states which have yet to make progress in peace talks with Israel, quickly rebuffed Mr. Clinton's call

while the Cairo-based Arab League said it was too early to consider such a move.

Quoted by the London-based Al Hayat newspaper, League Secretary General Esmat Abdul Maguid linked the removal of the boycott to "assurances of process on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks (of the peace process) and an end to the Israeli occupation of Arab lands occupied in 1967."

Diplomats said Arab states feared removal of the boycott would weaken their position in peace negotiations with Israel. They noted Syria and Lebanon had not made headway in their talks. Jordan has yet to sign a full peace treaty and the Palestinians are still locked in negotiations with the Israelis under their five-year self-rule period.

"I think Arab states feel the boycott is their only weapon to put pressure on Israel since it is militarily superior and their main supporter, the Soviet Union, has disappeared," a Gulf-based Western diplomat said.

"From my contacts with some Arab officials, I have the impression that they regard the boycott as a positive rather than a negative factor. When it was first imposed, it was designed to bring Israel to its knees but now it is considered as a bargaining chip to obtain more concessions."

Arab states imposed the ban four years after Israel was created in 1948 and the boycott became more organised with the opening of offices in each country.

The direct boycott prohibits all dealings with Israel while the indirect, known as the secondary and tertiary, bans dealing with any foreign company with links to the Jewish state and bar ships

which use Israeli ports from entering Arab harbours as well as the import of any publications related to Israel.

Israel has said the sanctions have cost it more than \$50 billion while the United States and other Western countries have reported large losses inflicted on hundreds of their companies which were blacklisted by Arabs.

Egypt is the only Arab country to have removed the direct boycott following its 1979 Camp David peace treaty with Israel while Kuwait, Tunisia and few other members have gradually eased the tertiary sanctions.

"A removal of the direct boycott is up to the Arab League," a Gulf official said. "I believe Arab states will react positively to any serious Israeli move that will serve peace and enable them to regain their rights."

Mr. Clinton's call came ahead of a historic economic conference in Morocco, to be sponsored by the U.S. and Russian presidents. The meeting, opening in Marrakech on October 30, is part of Western-led moves to tap the enormous resources of the middle East through cooperation among all parties.

The eventual target is to bring Israel and Arab states, and possibly Iran and Turkey, into a giant common market with a gross domestic product of more than \$700 billion, experts said.

In a front-page commentary on Mr. Clinton's call, the UAE semi-official daily Al Itihad said: "The U.S. pressure on Arabs should be directed to Israel. We have proved that we are with peace and it is Israel's turn to prove it so the boycott will be cancelled."

Qadhafi marks 25 turbulent years in power

By Elie Anstas
Agence France Presse

NOCTISIA — Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi this week marks the 25th anniversary of the coup that brought him to power, with his country isolated by international sanctions despite attempts to mend fences with the West.

Fired by dreams of Arab unity and militant Islam, Col. Qadhafi alienated the West soon after seizing power, accusing it of launching a "new crusade" against the Arabs.

A natural showman delighting in receiving foreign guests in his bedouin tent pitched in the desert, Col. Qadhafi has managed to maintain a high international profile in his struggle against Western values.

But amid official boasts that Libyans are "proud to resist imperialism," the 25th anniversary of the coup on Thursday comes in the shadow of a U.N. embargo which has made life increasingly tough for the country's three million people.

The embargo on air and military links was imposed on Libya in April 1992 to force the bandover of two suspects wanted in connection with the 1988 Lockerbie airliner bombing.

Last December, the United Nations also froze certain Libyan assets abroad and placed an embargo on oil-related equipment.

The international scene has changed dramatically since the 27-year-old Captain

Qadhafi seized power with 11 other officers on Sept. 1, 1969, deposing the elderly King Idris.

It was a spectacular rise to fame for a bedouin born in the desert.

His idol was Egyptian president and fervent Arab nationalist Gamal Abdul Nasser and at various times he has declared himself a fan of Mao Zedong, Stalin and even Hitler.

His dream was to establish Tripoli as the new capital of Arab unity and resistance to the West.

In domestic policy he espoused a unique brand of Islamic socialism spelled out in his "Green Book."

He banned alcohol and gambling, carried out sweeping nationalisations and promoted grassroots government through people's congresses, labour unions and other mass organisations.

Internationally, Col. Qadhafi's rule has been marked by failed attempts to merge with other Arab countries and idiosyncratic support for radical causes.

Libya financed or sent arms to Palestinian resistance groups and "national liberation" movements, including the Irish Republican Army (IRA) and the Moro rebels in the Philippines.

Opposition to the Libyan government was ruthlessly swept aside, with Tripoli blamed for the killings of opposition leaders abroad.

It was also accused of carrying out bloody terrorist attacks in Vienna, Rome,

Berlin and Israel.

The United States retaliated in 1986 for a series of attacks on U.S. interests in Europe by bombing Col. Qadhafi's residences in Tripoli and Benghazi.

His adopted daughter was among 44 people who died in the raids, but Col. Qadhafi escaped unscathed.

He soon found himself in the international dock again when Libyan agents were implicated in the bombing of a Pan Am airliner over Lockerbie in Scotland in 1988 which killed 270 people, and the 1989 bombing of a French UTA airliner over Niger in which 170 people died.

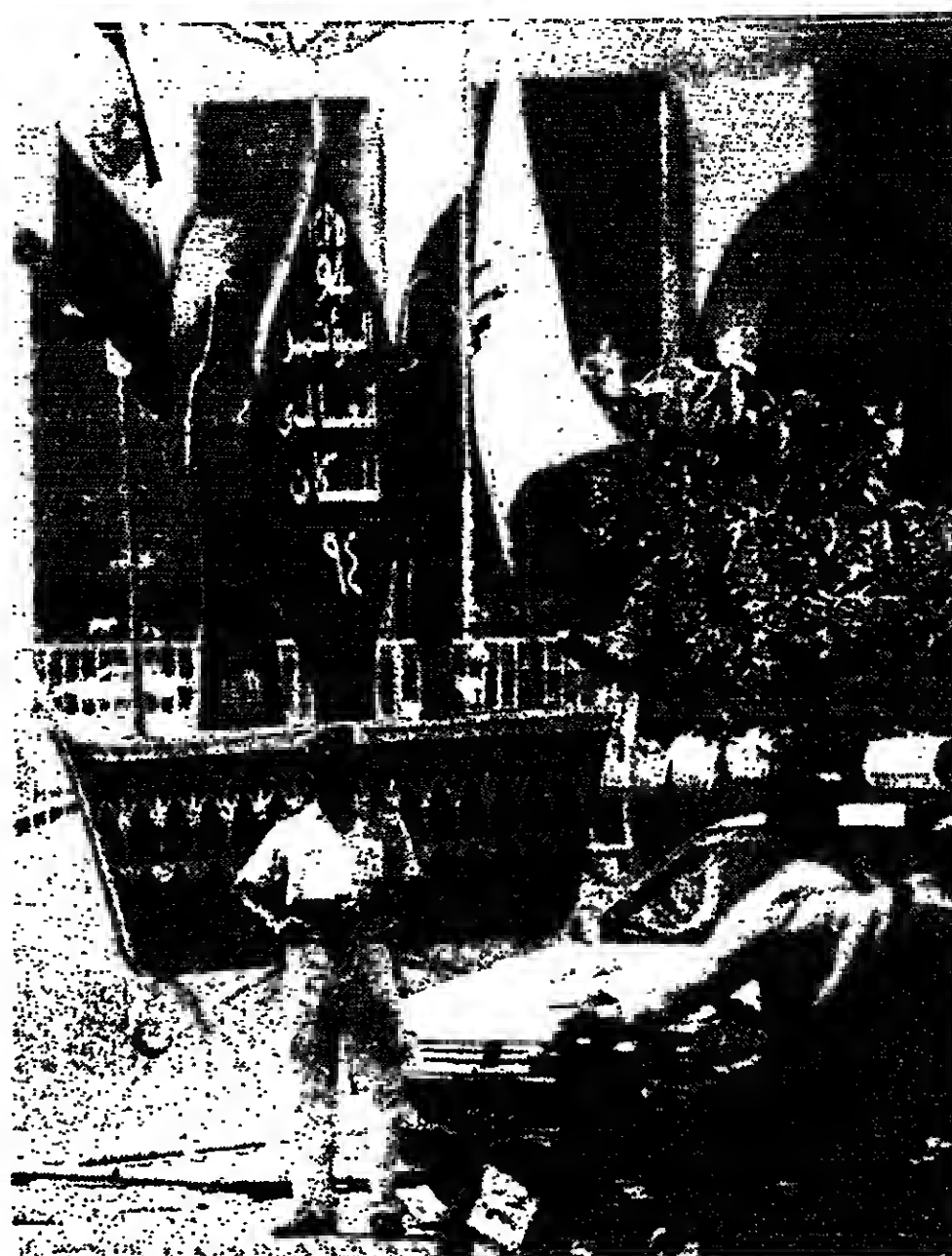
Sanctions were imposed after Libya denied involvement in the bombings and refused to hand over the suspects.

Now at the age of 52, bereft of his main backers following the collapse of communism in the Soviet Union, Col. Qadhafi has been forced to tone down its anti-Western rhetoric and seek a new respectability.

He has cut off financial support for extremist groups which formerly looked to Tripoli to fund their activities.

He has declared that he no longer supports terrorism, offered help to Britain in its battle against the IRA and welcomed U.S. and French oil firms to Libya.

Col. Qadhafi has gained backing from the Arab League, the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) and the Vatican for a lifting of the embargo.



A policeman stands guard in front of the International Conference Hall in Cairo 05 through 13 Sept. (AFP photo)

Cairo: Mother of cities, and of urban problems

By G.G. Labelle
The Associated Press

CAIRO — The thousands of people coming to Cairo to argue strategies for curbing world population need only a look around to see the scope of the problem.

Greater Cairo's population has grown from 1 million to 14 million since the 1920s. An estimated 5 million live in what Cairo bureaucrats call "informal settlements" — slums that have sprouted without planning or government services.

The air is polluted, grime and desert dust cover everything, traffic is a nightmare. The honking of taxis, buses and private cars seems to subside only on Fridays, when the din is replaced by Muslim prayers blaring from the loudspeakers of more than 1,000 mosques.

Coexisting with the sprawling slums are 1,000-year-old mosques, modern hotels and office buildings, cafes where men discuss the day's events over water pipes, bars where the young imbibe rock music and beer, and suburban-style homes and tree-lined streets.

Cairenes crowd the streets at night, carrying their children or tugging them along. Young couples stroll beside the Nile, the lifeline of Egypt. Because of the famous Egyptian sense of humour, the mutters and growls of urban life often dissolve into laughter with a well-timed remark.

"I can't find a city anywhere that's more full of life than Cairo," former mayor Youssef Sabri Abu Taleh once said. But he added: "From this comes all our problems: Housing shortages, an exploding population, pollution, lack

of cleanliness, traffic, everything."

Cairo was founded in 969, and by the 1300s the famous Arab traveler Ibn Batuta had named it "the mother of cities." In many ways, it also is the mother of urban problems.

Milad Hanna, a former chairman of parliament's housing committee, sees Cairo as the victim of its own success — and of misdirected government policies.

It is not only the nation's capital, but the centre of everything else: Business, education, the Muslim religion.

For years, the government has poured much of its resources into Cairo. Mr. Hanna said, increasing the city's lure while doing little to develop other areas.

"Cairo is living at the expense of the rest of the population of Egypt," he said in an interview.

So many people come to the city from towns and villages, hoping to find work, that nearly one-quarter of Egypt's 58 million people live in Cairo.

Many of them cannot find jobs and a bloody campaign by Muslim radicals to topple the government has made the situation even worse by devastating the tourism industry. More than 400 people, including four foreign tourists, have been killed in two years of violence.

There are no reliable unemployment figures for Cairo, but official statistics put the entire nation's jobless rate at 18 per cent. Businessmen claim the real number is twice that.

Crowded slums and idle youth are a recipe for more Islamic extremists: The

heart of Muslim militancy is Imbaba, a squatter slum of hundreds of thousands that until recently did not even have electricity or running water.

Master plans for solving the problems have been around since 1953. Although bureaucracy and corruption have interfered, a subway system and highway overpasses have helped unclog traffic. The telephone system, which once took hours just to produce a dial tone, works reasonably well.

The latest plan calls for building 10 satellite cities in the desert around Cairo. Six are in some stage of development, but the plan goes against the nature of Egyptians, who have lived along the Nile for 5,000 years and resist moving to the sandy wasteland.

Egyptian nature, however, may also be what saves Cairo from boiling over into chaos.

Islam sets a strict code of behaviour and Cairo, for all its size, does not entertain anonymity. It is a series of neighbourhoods where friends and relatives, jammed together, are quick to point out any infraction of the rules.

Because of close-knit families and Muslim generosity, the homelessness of American cities is virtually unknown. Only 299 murders were committed in the city last year, down from 342 in 1992.

But Mr. Hanna, the former legislator, fears Cairo may finally be overcome by the exploding population and poverty the U.N. conference seeks to solve.

"I see a very ugly, dark picture within 30 years if there are no policy changes," he said.

Israel seeks extradition of Hamas suspects

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Israel has officially requested the extradition from the Gaza Strip of two Palestinian Muslim fundamentalists suspected of killing two Israelis, military officials said Monday.

The unprecedented demand was put to the Palestinian National Authority on Sunday evening by General Dov Gazit who heads the Israeli side of a joint security and cooperation committee with the Palestinians.

The officials did not name the two suspects, members of the Islamic Resistance Movement Hamas.

Palestinian officials have condemned Friday's killings in Ramla, claimed by Ezzeddin Al Kassam, the Hamas armed wing, but said they lacked information about those responsible.

Police arrested 15 Israelis among several hundreds who demonstrated at Ramla overnight against the murders, the authorities said Monday.

"We have demanded urgently that the Palestinian authority arrest the murderers, whose identity we know more or less," Israeli Prime

Minister Yitzhak Rabin said Sunday.

Israeli police suspected five Palestinian workers from Rafah in the autonomous Gaza Strip were responsible for the Ramla killings.

In a huge crackdown police inspected about 1,000 building sites, workshops and farms and sent 400 workers without permits back to the territories. The two Israelis were stabbed to death at a building site.

PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat said the killings were the result of a "workers' brawl" and not a "military operation". Mr. Rabin dismissed the claim as "rubbish."

The Israeli cabinet unanimously endorsed Sunday a landmark accord on "early empowerment" which gives Palestinians in the Israeli-occupied West Bank the chance to run their own affairs for the first time — in the fields of education, health, welfare, tourism, and direct taxation.

It was to be signed by Israel and the Palestinian authority Monday at the Erez crossing linking the autonomous Gaza Strip with Israel.

Morocco arrests 4 gunmen

RABAT (R) — Morocco has arrested four gunmen on North African origin suspected of carrying out a series of armed robberies, including an attack on a hotel in which two Spanish tourists were killed, the interior ministry said.

Police also seized an arsenal of weapons in a house owned by the father of one of the gunmen in the Rif mountain village Aknouel north of Fez, the ministry said late on Sunday.

Arrested in the central city of Fez and the nearby town of Taourirt on Thursday and Saturday, two of the men arrested are of Algerian origin and the other two are Moroccans, one of them a French national. All are resident in France, the ministry said.

Their arrests and the seizure of a large quantity of firearms and ammunition followed a government announcement on Saturday that it would demand entry visas for visitors of Algerian nationality or origin and oblige those already in the country to report to the police.

Neighbouring Algeria reacted by closing its border with Morocco and instituting visas for Moroccans wishing to visit the country, touching off a full-blown row between the two states which have long been at loggerheads.

The ministry said a fifth man had apparently fled the country and international warrants for the arrest and extradition of other members of the gang had been issued.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Moroccan residents of Algeria allowed to re-enter

ALGIERS (AFP) — Moroccans with residence permits will not need entry visas to get back to Algeria, an Algerian Transport Ministry official said Monday. The announcement came in the midst of a tit-for-tat dispute between the North African nations which began Friday when Morocco imposed a visa requirement on resident Algerians and tourists. Algeria closed its land border Saturday and said Moroccans would henceforth need visas to visit Algeria. Transport Ministry official Ali Salah said in a radio broadcast that Moroccans who officially live in Algeria, numbering about 50,000, could re-enter Algeria upon presentation of their residence permit at the border.

Musa to visit Israel today

TEL AVIV (AP) — Egypt's Foreign Minister Amr Musa is making the most high-profile visit by an Egyptian leader to Israel in years, on Tuesday, Aug. 30, Israel announced Sunday. Mr. Musa will spend two days in the Jewish state, meeting Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, right-wing opposition leaders Benjamin Netanyahu, Arab lawmakers and Israeli business people. Israel and Egypt signed a peace treaty in 1979, but relations cooled after Israel invaded Lebanon in 1982, and Egyptian cabinet ministers virtually ceased visits in the mid-1980s. Ties have warmed since Mideast peace talks started in 1991, but Mr. Musa would be the highest ranking Egyptian to make a ceremonial visit in about a decade. Mr. Musa has been to Israel in the past but only for brief stays confined to working visits, the Israeli statement said.

Guerrillas set off bomb near SLA patrol

MARJAYOUN, Lebanon (R) — Guerrillas set off a bomb near an Israeli-backed militia patrol in Israel's occupation zone in southern Lebanon on Monday, security sources said. No one was hurt in the explosion. The sources said the bomb exploded as South Lebanon Army (SLA) militiamen patrolled a road between the areas of Aramta and Rihane on the edge of the border buffer zone in the south. After the blast, SLA gunners strafed the area around the blast site with artillery and machineguns, the sources added.

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel. 77311-19

PROGRAMME TWO

17:00 Alice Au Pays De Mervielles

17:25 Memoire De L'Europe

18:30 News In French

18:45 Grands Galops

19:40 News In Hebrew

19:50 Innovation

20:30 News In Arabic

21:10 Hollywood Stunt Makers

21:18 The Commish

22:00 News In English

22:20 Rose Against The Odds

PRAYER TIMES

04:43 Fajr

06:04 (Sunrise) Dhuhr

12:37 Dhuhr

16:13 'Asr

19:10 Maghreb

20:31 'Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church

Swedisch, Tel. 810740

Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785

St. Joseph Church Tel. 634590

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440

De la Salle Church Tel. 661757

Terraviva Church Tel. 622366

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 625541

Anglican Church Tel. 630851, Tel. 628543

Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331

Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261

St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751

Assiout International Church Tel. 625256

Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 624328

German-speaking Evangelical

Congregation Tel. 684195

The Church of Jesus Christ of

Later-Day Saints Tel. 654932

Church of Nazareth Tel. 675691

The Evangelical Local Church in

Amman Tel. 811295

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department

of Meteorology.

Fine weather conditions will prevail

with clouds appearing at low

altitudes and winds westerly moder-

ate. In Aqaba winds will be

northerly moderate and seas calm.

Min./Max. temp. 19/29

Amman 29, Aqaba 38, Humidity

readings: Amman 40 per cent,

Aqaba 26 per cent.

Yesterday's high temperatures:

Amman 29, Aqaba 38, Humidity

readings: Amman 40 per cent,

Aqaba 26 per cent.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN: Dr. Youssef Abdo 694916

Dr. Fakhri Tayeb 885880

Dr. Ghazi Abu Sallha 753405

Dr. Jun'Al Abu Dhiab 788488

Firas pharmacy 691912

Ferdous pharmacy 778336

Al Asema pharmacy 637055

Nasroukh pharmacy 626872

Al Salam pharmacy 630720

Yacoub pharmacy 649745

Stameini pharmacy 637660

Nasroukh pharmacy 626872

Najib pharmacy 847632

IRBID: Dr. Hussein Al Haj 246140

Alquds pharmacy (—)

ZARQA: Dr. Hussein Al Haj 984341

Khalil pharmacy 985417

IRBID: Dr. Hussein Al Haj 246140

Alquds pharmacy (—)

ZARQA: Dr. Hussein Al Haj 984341

Khalil pharmacy 985417

IRBID: Dr. Hussein Al Haj 246140

Alquds pharmacy (—)

ZARQA: Dr. Hussein Al Haj 984341

Khalil pharmacy 985417

IRBID: Dr. Hussein Al Haj 246140

Alquds pharmacy (—)

ZARQA: Dr. Hussein Al Haj 984341

Khalil pharmacy 985417

Civil Defence Immediate

Rescue 630341

Civil Defence Emergency 199

Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777

Fire Brigade 617101

Prominent Catholic priest killed in Haiti

PORT-AU-PRINCE (R) — Suspected paramilitary gunmen have shot dead a prominent Catholic priest loyal to deposed President Jean-Bertrand Aristide, church sources said Monday.

"At 8:15 p.m. Sunday Aug. 28, Father (Jean-Marie) Vincent was ambushed and shot dead at the entrance of his house... they were waiting for him in a jeep and opened fire with automatic weapons," an official told Reuters.

Fr. Vincent, 49, was founder of a literary programme in northwestern Haiti and came to the capital after what human rights activists say was a massacre of hundreds of peasants there in 1987.

He was well known in the Haitian exile community in Miami.

Diplomats and human rights officials say the military and its paramilitary backers have been targeting individuals and organisations in a campaign to stamp out any lingering support for Mr. Aristide, the deposed populist priest ousted in a bloody 1991 coup. Washington has threatened to invade Haiti to

restore him to power.

The Clinton administration's plans for a possible invasion of Haiti have been put on a slower track by the Cuban refugee crisis and other problems, the New York Times reported in its Monday edition.

The newspaper, quoting administration officials, said preparations for a showdown with Haiti's military rulers nevertheless were continuing.

An invasion to restore exiled President Jean-Bertrand Aristide would not take place until after the Cuban crisis is resolved and perhaps not until after U.S. elections in November, the newspaper added.

It said the administration was hoping that the threat of an invasion would make the reality unnecessary and that the wheels of preparation for an invasion continued to move slowly.

"No one ought to assume that there's been any decline in the urgency of dealing with the situation," the Times quoted White House Chief of Staff Leon Panetta as saying. "No timetable has been

set, but I can assure you that we are moving to increase the pressure (on Haiti)," said Mr. Panetta.

Talks between officials of the 13-member Caribbean Community were to begin Monday in Kingston, Jamaica to examine plans for a possible invasion of the Caribbean island.

Officials from the United States, Canada, the United Nations and the Organisation of American States are set to discuss ways of implementing a U.N. resolution authorising the use of military force to restore Mr. Aristide.

U.S. Deputy Secretary of State Strobe Talbott and Deputy Secretary of Defence John Deutch will arrive Tuesday to participate in the talks, along with Canadian officials, according to local press reports.

Four Caricom states — Jamaica, Trinidad, Barbados and Belize — have confirmed they will supply troops for a 300-man peacekeeping battalion to follow any possible invasion. Antigua and the Bahamas have yet to confirm their participation but are expected to do so.



Nigerians pray in church for the strikes to end as the oil workers' union goes into its ninth week of a strike that is crippling the country (AFP photo)

Nigerian oil strike enters 9th week

LAGOS (Agencies) — Nigeria's pro-democracy oil strike entered its ninth week Monday with most of the workers resolving to continue the stoppage, oil officials said.

An official of one of Nigeria's oil-producing joint venture partners said oil workers met very early Monday and decided to continue the stoppage.

The oil unions are demanding military ruler General Sani Abacha hands over to Moshood Abiola, undeclared winner of last year's annulled presidential vote now on trial for treason.

They started the strike on July 4 after Mr. Abiola was arrested for proclaiming himself president.

In response Gen. Abacha sacked the leaders of the

unions and ordered the workers to return to work or risk losing their jobs.

State-owned Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC) staff have resumed work following Gen. Abacha's order but those in private companies are holding out.

"Our members are solid. They are not going back to work," Warri Abacha, the sacked president of the blue-collar union NUPENG, told Reuters.

"We cannot and shall not go back to work," the dissolved executive of the white-collar oil workers union PENGASSAN said in a weekend statement.

The two unions say they have a combined membership of 200,000 workers and middle-level managers.

The strike has crippled local fuel supplies and shut many businesses including banks. Most banks reopened last week after they were ordered by the government to do so or lose their licences.

Meanwhile, the treason trial of Nigerian opposition leader Moshood Abiola, scheduled to resume at the Federal High Court in Abuja Monday, failed to do so in the absence of a judge.

On Aug. 16, the trial judge, Abdullahi Mustapha, took himself off the case after Mr. Abiola and his lawyers accused him of being biased. It was then announced that proceedings would resume on Aug. 29, with a newly-appointed judge.

Al Arqam, an international religious movement based in Kuala Lumpur, was officially outlawed in Malaysia Friday for threatening public order and spreading deviationist Islamic teachings.



A PAINFUL SHOVE: Portuguese torero "Pedrito de Portugal" receives a painful shove from his sixth bull during his performance at the San Sebastian De Los Reyes Fair, near Madrid, Sunday. Pedrito was later awarded with four bull's ears (AFP photo)

Non-candidates race for French presidency

PARIS (R) — The race for the French presidency is turning into a contest between non-candidates who pretend to be doing anything but racing.

Eight months before elections to appoint a successor to President Francois Mitterrand, several politicians are locked into cloak-and-dagger pre-campaign manoeuvres while refusing to say they will run.

But they risk exasperating voters, some commentators say. "What picture do the French have of this political class which swears it is not yet concerned by the presidential election when everybody knows that every act is dictated by it?" Asked the left-wing daily Liberation.

The main politicians seen as candidates in all but name are those riding top in the opinion polls — conservative Prime Minister Edouard Balladur, fellow-Gaullist former Premier Jacques Chirac and, to the left, outgoing European Commission President Jacques Delors.

None is expected to throw his hat into the ring until early next year. The first round of the vote is scheduled at the end of April.

The conservative daily Le Figaro dedicated a front-page editorial Monday to what it dubbed "tactical silences."

"If the French do not yet know officially who will be a candidate, the partisans of various figures have taken it upon themselves to whisper the names of their champions," it said.

Mr. Balladur, riding a wave of popularity, has said he will not talk about the election until 1995. But he has been careful not to let Mr. Chirac seize the initiative.

Political analyst Olivier Duhamel said he believed Chirac should declare his candidacy before January to make it harder for Mr. Balladur to follow with a challenge. But Mr. Chirac's aides say he, too, will wait until early 1995.

Le Figaro said that Delors, a poor campaigner, had a clear interest in keeping a low profile. "The longer he re-

mains silent, the more people rally behind him," it said. Socialist leaders are openly banking on Mr. Delors standing.

Supporters of the three men give a variety of reasons for their discretion — Mr. Balladur is dedicating his efforts to governing the country, Mr. Chirac believes a debate on issues not individuals is the priority and Mr. Delors is busy in Brussels.

Mr. Duhamel told Reuters that secretary is par for the course in French politics. "None of this waiting game will damage the three, 'Uncertainty before elections is normal in France,'" he said.

"The French... know Balladur will run even if he hasn't said so — the same goes for Chirac and Delors."

That leaves France with no prospect of a let-up in the thinly veiled squabbling for at least four long months.

The three have not refrained from dropping heavy hints, nor from firing thinly disguised broadsides at potential rivals.

To Mr. Chirac's warnings,

that unemployment and the exclusion of the poorest threaten the fabric of French society, Mr. Balladur has retorted with a plea for national unity couched in the words of the mentor of both men, the late Charles De Gaulle.

Mr. Delors, the most hesitant of the three, has also leapt into the fray. In an attack clearly aimed at Mr. Chirac, he has denounced those who "pretend" that taxes can be cut and the welfare state maintained intact.

Other potential runners are further confusing the picture. Mr. Delors hinted at the weekend that Michel Rocard, ousted as Socialist Party leader and stripped of his status as the left's natural presidential candidate last June, may not have spoken his last word.

And some commentators believe that Interior Minister Charles Pasqua, who has called for primary elections to name a single candidate for the right, could be tempted to, run himself.

Mahathir pledges mercy for devotees of Al Arqam

KUALA LUMPUR (AFP) — Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohammad Monday pledged to show mercy to followers of a banned Islamic messianic sect, but vowed to crack down on its leaders.

"We do not want to arrest the followers... the problem is with the leaders," Mr. Mahathir was quoted as saying, quashing speculation that the government would resort to mass arrests of the Al Arqam sect's members.

Al Arqam, an international religious movement based in Kuala Lumpur, was officially outlawed in Malaysia Friday for threatening public order and spreading deviationist Islamic teachings.

Its estimated 100,000 members nationwide were ordered to halt all the group's activities.

But many have defied the order and are still wearing the sect's uniform in public, and displaying pictures of its 57-year-old leader, Ashaari Mohammad — living in self-imposed exile in Thailand, authorities said.

Tension was running high at the sect's communions amid speculation that there would be mass arrests.

Mr. Mahathir, however, assured Al Arqam's followers that they would be treated leniently as the government knew they were being "confused by their leaders."

Mr. Mahathir said Mr. Ashaari was collaborating with Al Arqam officials in Malaysia to influence sect members to defy the government.

"They (the sect leaders) are going around accusing the government of putting obstacles against the teachings of Islam," Mr. Mahathir said. "This is untrue."

Mr. Mahathir said the government was willing to spare even Mr. Ashaari, who has plans to return to Kuala Lumpur soon, if he stops his deviationist teachings.

Zainal Abidin Kadir, director of the government-run Islamic Centre, Monday described Mr. Ashaari as a

coward for staying away and using his followers to pursue his illegal activities here.

Mr. Mahathir has accused Ashaari of likening himself to the Prophet Mohammad and of using Al Arqam women members as sex slaves.

"If he returns and still wants to spread the word that he has the attributes of God, we will take action against him, in accordance to our law," Mr. Mahathir warned.

Police said a nationwide crackdown had netted more than 130 Al Arqam followers since last week, for distributing pamphlets on the group's teachings and trying to take Mr. Mahathir to task for his remarks against the sect.

S. Africa joins SADC

GABORONE (R) — South Africa became the 11th member of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Monday and paid tribute to its once-hostile neighbours for helping destroy apartheid.

It also urged them to combat crime and underdevelopment.

"You stood firm behind our people... you gave us refuge and acted as our ambassadors to the whole continent and the world," South African Deputy President Thabo Mbeki said at a ceremony.

Mr. Mbeki was standing in for President Nelson Mandela who has been told by doctors to rest.

"The apartheid of destabilisation split innocent blood, wrecked economies, spawned waves of refugees across the sub-continent and created anguish and social dislocation," said Mr. Mbeki, who himself lived in exile before the African National Congress (ANC) that is now the biggest party in South Africa was legalised in 1990.

Mr. Mbeki said the continent faced growing threats from drug syndicates that were moving their activities to Africa from Europe and the United States.

"Africa, and especially our region, has become a conduit for drug trafficking between the east and the west. The scale of the traffic is already alarming."

"What is even more alarming is that experience shows

that if the practice is not nipped in the bud, countries which start as conduits soon degenerate into consumers and lastly end up as wide-scale producers of narcotics," Mr. Mbeki said.

"Illegal arms continue to cross borders and are used to stoke fires of crime and civil strife... syndicates infiltrate the corridors of political power and corruption, social degeneracy and political and economic instability set in."

South Africa's membership of SADC should help to address trade imbalances in the region, he said.

"Our new relationship should seek to redress the current imbalances in trade patterns within our region and expanding a sustainable economic interaction among our countries has to be based on more equitable two-way flows of capital, goods and services."

He said political instability in SADC-member Lesotho, where the monarch, King Letsie III, has dissolved the elected government, had generated concern throughout southern Africa.

SADC was established 14 years ago primarily to coordinate attempts to reduce economic dependence on apartheid South Africa but never succeeded in this.

Trade among the group is only four per cent of total SADC trade and 25 per cent of total trade is with South Africa, whose economy is by far and away the biggest in the region.

Mexican ruling party wins with lowest percentage ever

MEXICO CITY (R) — Mexico's ruling party won last week's presidential elections with the lowest percentage ever in its unbroken 65-year-old hold on power, final official results showed.

The Federal Electoral Institute said Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI) candidate Ernesto Zedillo won 48.77 per cent of the votes cast in last Sunday's poll. If spoiled ballots are discounted, Mr. Zedillo ends up with 50.18 per cent of valid votes.

The Electoral Institute said both results were official

without saying which would finally be adopted. In either case, Mr. Zedillo's winning share of the vote was the lowest since the PRI was born in power in 1929.

If the lower figure is finally taken, he will be the first PRI president ever elected with less than 50 per cent support.

The PRI is the world's longest-ruling political party and used to win presidential elections with more than 80 per cent of the vote before opposition parties began gaining ground in recent years.

Outgoing President Carlos

Salinas De Gortari had notched up the previous low with 50.47 per cent of valid votes in the 1988 presidential elections.

Even so, Mr. Zedillo's margin of victory surprised many and, unlike Mr. Salinas' win in 1988, was not marred by the usual widespread allegations of massive fraud. The huge turnout of more than 70 per cent also gave his victory greater legitimacy than Mr. Salinas' highly-contested win six years ago.

Mr. Zedillo beat his

nearest rival, Diego Fernandez De Cevallos of the conservative National Action Party, by 23 percentage points, the Electoral Institute said late Saturday in releasing final results from the country's 300 electoral districts.

Mr. Fernandez scored 25.94 per cent of the votes cast, or 26.69 per cent once spoiled ballots are discounted, while centre-left candidate Cuauhtemoc Cardenas had 16.6 per cent or 17.08 per cent.

Mr. Fernandez scored 25.94 per cent of the votes cast, or 26.69 per cent once spoiled ballots are discounted, while centre-left candidate Cuauhtemoc Cardenas had 16.6 per cent or 17.08 per cent.

accounted for the remainder of the vote.

Official results also showed the PRI holding its majority in the Chamber of Deputies and the Senate but the final calculations of seats according to a complex allocation procedure was not expected until late Sunday.

Mr. Cardenas, who is widely believed to have been cheated of victory in the 1988 election, has alleged fraud in last Sunday's elections but most Mexican and foreign observers say any irregularities were not enough to have affected the result.

Repatriated Russian soldiers find the going tough back home

MOSCOW (AFP) — Russian soldiers returning from Germany and the Baltic states are finding life tough in a country which no longer views them as heroes but more as a burden on the cash-strapped economy.

Most of the soldiers, including many officers and their families, will find themselves homeless, a bitter pill to swallow for men who enjoyed a comfortable lifestyle in their former quarters.

Despite massive aid, mainly from Germany, Russia has failed to build enough new homes for the thousands of troops being brought home in the final stages of the repatriation exercise this year.

Germany gave Russia 8.3 billion marks (about \$5.2 billion) to finance a programme of 45,000 homes due to be completed by the end of 1995. The United States supplied \$166 million to build

5,400 homes.

In 1990 and 1991, at the start of Russia's military withdrawal from the former Soviet Bloc, Moscow was making available between 50,000 and 70,000 new apartments a year. But in 1993, the army managed to build or recover only 10,000 flats, said Defence Ministry spokesman Ivan Skrynnik.

This is a drop in the ocean for the 640,000 soldiers repatriated since 1990 or the 250,000 to be brought home from Germany and the Baltic states this year.

At best, Russian authorities might be able to offer a home to half of the total, said Mr. Skrynnik, who remarked that "NATO never had to handle a withdrawal of such magnitude."

Housing is only one of the problems confronting the returning soldiers. The majority will have to adjust to a

lower standard of living and a loss of status as the army prepares to slash the number of troops to 1.5 million compared to 4.5 million in Soviet times.

Formerly career soldiers enjoyed substantial privileges. They were entitled to a flat, access to special restaurants and their job was for life.

Today, "the only privilege we've got left is to travel free on the underground," said Anatoly Girich, a retired colonel who served in Germany and Afghanistan.

Col. Girich, 49, was in the army for 32 years. He has only just retired and considers himself well off compared to the younger men.

He and his wife live in a flat given them by the state. His army pension comes to 230,000 rubles (\$120) a month. His wife still works and their son is now grown-

up.

"I managed to escape the difficulties. But my younger comrades are very angry. They are uncertain of their future and have to scrimp and scrape to make ends meet," he said.

Oleg, 42, also a Colonel and a friend of Col. Girich, echoed this sentiment. Since returning from Germany two years ago, he, his wife and their son aged 16 have had to rent a flat in suburb of Moscow.

The government failed to provide them with housing despite Col. Oleg's contract as an officer which guarantees him a home.

Col. Oleg's wife has been unable to find work and although he is paid more than 500,000 rubles (\$250) a month, a relatively high wage, Col. Oleg works as a security guard in his spare time to earn enough to keep

his family.

In these conditions, there are many officers who prefer to quit the army and take up a civilian job. Some hope to join the emerging ranks of businessmen and managers.

Among those who have resigned, a select number are sent to be trained as "company managers" under a programme financed by the German government.

But only 7,000 officers a year will be able to benefit from the training scheme, a tenth of the numbers leaving the army annually.

All these difficulties are arming the critics in the military lobby which is pressuring the government to allocate more money to the armed forces. Defence Minister Pavel Grachev warned recently that "we must not antagonise the army" and called for the defence budget to be increased.

Lost bomber found in Australian bushland

CANBERRA (R) — A World War II Liberator bomber has been found in remote Australian bushland 50 years after it disappeared. The Royal Australian Air Force said Monday that National Park rangers last month found the four-engined U.S. consolidated B-24 bomber in central Queensland inland from the port of Rockhampton. But they found no evidence of the crew, six U.S. Army Air Corps and two British Royal Air Force personnel, an air force statement said. The aircraft disappeared on a flight from Darwin to Brisbane on Feb. 26, 1945.

Farmer gets slap on wrist for growing opium

HONG KONG (AFP) — A Shanghai farmer given a suspended jail sentence for growing opium poppies in his backyard insisted he used the plants as medicine for his chickens, pigs and fish, a report said. The farmer was given only a one-year suspended jail term and fined 200 yuan (\$35). The Hong Kong branch of China News Service said, because he admitted growing opium and claimed it was for consumption only by his ailing animals, not by humans. Drug trafficking and opium growing is illegal in China, where offenders may be sentenced to death.

Over 100,000 fans mount mini birthday celebration

LONDON (AFP) — Over 100,000 motoring enthusiasts poured into Silverstone, west London, Sunday to celebrate the 35th birthday of the world's favourite small car, the Austin Mini. Close to 30,000 minis also made it to Silverstone, the main British car racing centre, for the special celebration. A special edition of the famed car, a Grand Prix Mini Cooper, went on sale for the occasion with 35 models priced at £13,495 (\$20,740) each. Since the car's launch on Aug. 26, 1959, 5.28 million minis have been sold around the world, popularised by a series of celebrity owners ranging from the Beatles to Princess Kent. His Majesty King Hussein and film star Peter Sellers. According to legend, the basic design of the "brick on wheels" was sketched out on the back of a packet of cigarettes by its creator Alec Issigonis. Sales were slow to get underway but the modest price, £495 at the time, its practical size and a few notable successes in the Monte Carlo Rally helped to make it a winner. In 1971, the car's record year, it sold 318,475. Today the Rover group which took over the production of the mini in the late 1980s sells around 20,000 a year, all built at its Longbridge factory close to the central city of Birmingham. Sixty per cent of them are for export, mostly going to Japan which today buys more of the cars than are sold in Britain.

Vicar sparks row over tombstones

LONDON (R) — An English vicar who said "Dad" and "Granddad" were too undignified to appear on tombstones in his churchyard has provoked another row by banning abbreviated names. Newspapers reported Monday, Rev Stephen Brian, who returned from holiday to find "Tom Dixon" on a headstone erected in his absence, told masons to replace it with one bearing the man's full name. Thomas John Dixon, Dixon's widow Olive, 64, who was also asked to foot the fresh bill of several hundred pounds, accused the vicar of being cruel, insensitive and ridiculous. "Who is Thomas? Not my husband. I would be placing my flowers on the grave of a stranger," she said. "In nearly 40 years of marriage I only ever called him Tom." Earlier this month Brian, Vicar of Holy Trinity Church in the village of Freckleton in Lancashire, north-west England, won the backing of a church court over his ban on familiar terms. Newspapers said the children of the dead man at the centre of that dispute were considering exhuming his body and burying him elsewhere so they could use the word "dad" in his memorial. As a compromise in the latest wrangle, the vicar says he might allow "tom" in brackets after the man's full name.

World News

JORDAN TIMES, TUESDAY, AUGUST 30, 1994 5



General view of the Kashusha camp near Bukavu in Zaire, where 27,000 Rwandan refugees are currently living in fairly normal conditions, as water supplies and medical care can be provided (AFP photo)

U.N. human rights experts arrive in Rwanda

KIGALI (AFP) — A three-member U.N. team of human rights experts arrived in Kigali Monday for an assessment mission prior to establishing an international tribunal to try people accused of genocide.

The new government formed by the victorious Rwandan Patriotic Front (RPF) in July after three months of ethnic carnage and civil war has said it wants the tribunal set up as soon as possible.

The authorities say they want to prevent spontaneous revenge attacks against Hutus for the slaughter of up to a million Hutu opponents of the former regime and the minority Tutsis, who dominated the RPF.

Kofi A. Annan, U.N. secretary-general, said the team was dispatched by the U.N. Commission on Human Rights, which also includes Sahibu Fomba from Mali and Akyi Dieng from Guinea.

More than a million Rwandans have sought refuge in Zaire around Goma and Bukavu north and south of Lake Kivu. They include members of the former government and nearly 50,000 soldiers of the defeated army.

Some of the soldiers have resumed training at a camp near Bukavu, according to aid workers there, and extremist Hutu militias and an-

thorities, keen to retain a power-base, have told refugees they will be murdered if they return home.

Some of the defeated government troops have indicated that they would be ready to return to Rwanda, but only if they could be guaranteed safety and allowed to join the new army the government wants to form.

Meanwhile, Zairean and Rwandan government ministers Monday postponed a meeting on Rwandan refugees and their security, officials said after more violence in camps around Goma.

Zairean Justice Minister Gerard Kamenda said the meeting had been put off and would start Tuesday afternoon provided that experts from the two countries holding preparatory talks had finished their work.

Rwandan experts returned to Goma Monday to resume the talks, one of them told AFP.

Five people died, one of them a child, and another child was injured in a series of clashes in two camps and in Goma over the weekend, Ray Wilkinson, spokesman for the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), said Monday.

Two men and a woman were killed in a fight between refugees in the Mununga camp near Goma overnight Saturday after somebody attempted to steal the plastic sheeting used by a group of people refugees as their shelter.

In another incident, a Hutu man was killed in the Kibuku camp after he encouraged fellow refugees to return to Rwanda. He was battered to death by a crowd of refugees, the UNHCR said.

In Goma itself, a 15-year-old boy was killed and his brother was seriously injured when a grenade exploded in the street in front of their home. The boy's brother was taken to a hospital.

Security for the mainly Hutu refugees is expected to be high on the agenda at Tuesday's meeting.

Apart from banditry, they are intimidated by former government officials, troops and extremist militias.

The delegation sent by the new Rwandan regime, which includes moderate Hutus, has demanded the disarmament of the former government's troops and the recovery of the arms and money they took with them to Zaire.

"Efforts made by the Zairean government to help those refugees who wish to return home feel secure have proved to be insufficient," Mr. Kamenda told reporters Monday. "Steps, particularly psychological measures, also need to be taken the other side of the border."

"We don't want the conditions set up on Zairean soil for a repetition of what happened in Rwanda," he said, adding that he was "providing a discreet presence to ensure security and the Zairean army is busy itself with the ethnic problems in the camps."

The Mununga camp, 12 kilometres (eight miles) west of Goma, is currently home to around 220,000 refugees, around 20,000 of whom are members of the former army.

An estimated 350,000 Albanians work in Greece following the Communist regime's collapse in Tirana in 1990, earning cash for families scraping by in Europe's poorest nation.

Although thousands are regularly expelled, the number has remained relatively constant because others cross the mountainous border illegally to take their place.

The Northern League, Ms. Pivetti's own party, distanced itself from her call to repeal the abortion law and simultaneous calls on Italy's Catholics to reassess themselves in politics following the collapse of the long-dominant Christian Democrats.

"God preserve us from a Catholic party," League leader Umberto Bossi said in comments published by Corriere della Sera newspaper. "God save us from fundamentalist parties."

Early results show Bosnian Serbs rejecting peace plan

PALE, Bosnia-Herzegovina (Agencies) — Bosnian Serbs overwhelmingly rejected a peace plan backed by friends and enemies alike, early referendum results showed Monday, deepening fears the Bosnian war would turn more violent.

Referendum officials said more than 90 per cent of those voting over the weekend rejected the plan put forward by the United States, Russia, France, Britain and Germany.

The United States has warned that continued Bosnian Serb refusal to accept the plan could prompt the lifting of a U.N. arms embargo on the Muslim-led government, which has been hand-capped by Serb weapons superiority.

There were reports of voting irregularities. But there was no question that the majority of participants, subjected to massive propaganda by the Bosnian Serb leadership, had rejected the proposal.

The plan would require Serbs to surrender conquered territory. It has been accepted by Bosnia's Croats and Muslims, and endorsed by Russia, a traditional Serb ally, and Serbia, main supporter of the Bosnian Serb war effort until recently.

The rejection, though widely expected, downs remaining hopes that an end is in sight for the 28-month Bosnian war, which has already left 200,000 dead or missing.

As Bosnian Serbs voted Sunday, their troops battled government soldiers north of Sarajevo in some of the fiercest action in recent weeks. The Muslim-led government is clearly prepared for more war, buoyed by modest gains

in recent months after a string of losses in the first two years of fighting.

Gen. Rasim Delic, their commander, told the Oso-bodjenje daily newspaper in Sarajevo that his troops are "slowly taking over the initiative" and spoke of a possible "turning point."

"Peace is far away," said Gen. Delic. "We will get hardly anything without a fight."

Cmdr. Eric Chaperon, a U.N. spokesman in Sarajevo, said Monday that both sides were firing into a 20-kilometre (10-mile) exclusion zone around the city. He confirmed Bosnian Serbs had a mobile anti-aircraft gun within the zone.

NATO warplanes enforcing a ban on heavy weapons in the zone destroyed a Serb weapon violating it Aug. 5. Mr. Chaperon said the anti-aircraft gun was "under the threat of air strike," but for now the United Nations was trying to get it out through negotiations.

In Pale, site of the Bosnian Serb self-styled parliament, the head of the Electoral Commission, Ratko Cancar, said that the turnout at the referendum was over 90 per cent of 1.2 million eligible voters.

Official and final results will be announced Wednesday at a session of the Bosnian Serb parliament.

The plan would reduce Serb holdings to 49 per cent of Bosnia from the 70 per cent they control. A federation of Bosnian Muslims and Croats would get 51 per cent.

Bosnian Serb leaders say the division would leave them with an unworkable state and prevent them from uniting with Serbia, the largest of two remaining republics in

Yugoslavia. The quest for such a union was the reason they rebelled in April 1992 as Bosnia broke from the old Yugoslav Federation.

The referendum was widely considered irrelevant by an outside world weary of Bosnian Serb intransigence.

Even neighbouring Serbia branded it a crude attempt by Bosnian Serb leaders to first responsibility for a bad decision onto ill-informed voters. The referendum marks the second time Bosnia's Serbs have been asked to vote on a peace plan.

Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic cut off supplies to his former proxies in Bosnia early this month after Bosnian Serb leaders denounced the plan.

Mr. Milosevic, regarded as the chief instigator of the war in Bosnia, wants an end to more than two years of crippling trade sanctions imposed on Yugoslavia for its role in the conflict. Peace-plan sponsors say sanctions won't be lifted until Bosnian Serbs accept the proposal without conditions.

Bosnian Radio, meanwhile, claimed that the Serbs Sunday expelled 600 Muslim women, children and elderly people from Bijeljina to Tuzla, a Bosnian government-held city to the southwest.

Peter Kessler, a spokesman for the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees, confirmed that at least 400 Muslims leaving in the latest wave.

Mr. Kessler said some of them had to be carried on stretchers after days of Serb detention, but offered no

details.

He said 1,100 had been displaced from Bijeljina since July 17, about 3,000 Muslims remained, but at the present rate "that area will be totally ethnically cleansed within some six weeks," he said.

Russian Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev met in Sarajevo Monday with Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic in an attempt to appeal to the Muslim leadership to end fighting by the Bosnian army.

"I am going to make clear to Alija Izetbegovic, in all frankness, the need for the Muslim army to stop the military activities which have been observed recently and which threaten to severely hamper the prospects for a peaceful settlement in Bosnia," Mr. Kozyrev said.

Mr. Kozyrev's trip comes at a time when the mainly Muslim Bosnian government troops are making territorial advances in Serb-held Bosnian territory and following an expected rejection by the Serbs on the latest international peace plan for Bosnia-Herzegovina.

ITAR-TASS quoted Mr. Kozyrev as saying he planned to thank leaders of the Muslim-Croat federation for accepting the peace plan.

Mr. Kozyrev, who was to head to Germany via Zagreb later Monday, met upon his arrival here with Izetbegovic and Prime Minister Haris Silajdzic but declined to make any comment.

On Sunday he also met with Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic but the issues they discussed were not revealed.

Abortion debate divides Italy, splits government

ROME (R) — Sixteen years after abortion was legalised in Catholic Italy, the emotional issue returned Monday to divide the country and its government after a top politician called for repeal of a law allowing the practice.

The row over a 1978 law sanctioning abortion has split the government of Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi and embarrassed his largest coalition partner, the federalist Northern League.

League member Irene Pivetti, the devoutly Catholic speaker of the Chamber of Deputies, Italy's lower house of parliament, sparked the controversy at the weekend by indicating that the law should be repealed.

Her comments to a Catholic youth conference, a week before the opening of a U.N. conference on population in Cairo, drew widespread criticism.

U.S. would match Castro reforms

WASHINGTON (R) — The United States and Cuba attempted to calm their stormy relations Sunday, with President Fidel Castro calling for "persuasion" to stop the exodus and the U.S. offering a measured response to any democratic moves.

Branding a diplomatic carrot instead of a military stick, U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher said the administration was not seeking to oust Mr. Castro, even though it has blamed him for the flood of boat people pouring out of Cuba this month.

"If he moves toward democracy in a tangible, significant way, we'll respond in a carefully calibrated way," Mr. Christopher said on the CBS television programme Face The Nation.

He said the United States sought peaceful, democratic change in Cuba.

Whether that involves Mr. Castro or not is really up to him. If there was a free election and he ran, I imagine the people of Cuba might be rather hesitant to vote for him," he said.

But, Mr. Christopher added, it was not U.S. policy to seek the removal of "any individual person."

In Havana, meanwhile, Mr. Castro issued an order that his Coast Guard and police should stop unsafe boats and rafts carrying minors from leaving the country — the first indication that both he and the U.S. want to halt the emigration.

Earlier orders issued on Aug. 12 had effectively allowed Cubans to leave the

country if they were willing to risk the 90-mile (150 km) journey across the open sea to Florida.

The order, published on the front page of Sunday's Juventud Rebelde newspaper, prohibited "the departure of persons who try to emigrate abroad with inadequate and unsafe means that carry children or secondary school-age adolescents aboard."

The order said the authorities should use "persuasion" and only use force or firearms in exceptional cases.

"In case the craft is discovered already at sea, reiterate the warnings and use persuasive efforts... without attempting to physically capture the craft or employ any force or violence so as to avoid accidents."

Seven men, armed with knives and flares, tried to hijack a ferry in eastern Cuba but were stopped by passengers on the boat and later protected from irate citizens by police, the Cuban newspaper Juventud Rebelde said Sunday.

Mr. Castro has blamed the U.S. embargo on trade with Cuba for the island's economic malaise and the chaotic emigration.

U.S. officials accuse Mr. Castro of encouraging the exodus to ease pressure on his government and cash-strapped economy.

Roughly 17,000 Cubans have been rescued at sea by U.S. ships since early this month, the largest number since the 1980 Mariel boatlift brought in 125,000.

Mr. Christopher did not spell out how Washington might relax its 31-year-old

embargo on trade with Cuba, one of the few Communist holdouts in the world, but he urged free elections as one of the steps Mr. Castro should take.

Other moves sought by the United States include release of political prisoners, free market reforms and an opening of political life.

The Clinton administration is gearing up for mid-level talks with Cuban officials in New York Wednesday or Thursday on migration issues. It hopes the talks will lead Mr. Castro to stop Cubans from risking their lives in vessels that are not seaworthy.

Mr. Christopher said Washington would talk to Cuba about accelerating legal migration in the United States "if they're prepared to stop the unlawful migration."

At the Guantanamo Bay naval base, where U.S. ships have been depositing the Cuban rafters to avoid taking them to the United States, military planners were waiting to see whether a sharp drop in the Cuban exodus was because of bad weather or the new U.S. policy of refusing them entrance.

More than 13,000 Cubans were already housed in the tent city that U.S. troops have built at this American outpost on the southeastern tip of Communist Cuba and troops working 24 hours a day were planning for an eventual total of 40,000.

Only about 400 Cuban refugees arrived Friday and 130 Saturday, a far cry from the situation last week when more than 6,000 arrived in just two days.

Albanians run and hide to stay in Greece

ATHENS (R) — Albanian Kisto Mika dashed across a field in an Athens suburb Monday to avoid arrest when police units closed in as part of a huge operation to round up and expel illegal Albanian refugees throughout Greece.

Mika climbed up a tree and perched there for half an hour until the manhunt ended. On Tuesday he will try to find another hiding place,

hoping his luck will last. Athens, angry over the trial of five ethnic Greeks in Tirana accused of spying, has sent back across the border some 25,000 illegal Albanians since the beginning of August.

"Our orders from the Public Order Ministry are clear," said a senior police officer whose 30-man unit make daily rounds to arrest illegal

aliens. "The operation will not stop until all illegal Albanians are rounded up and deported."

Mika, who pumps gas at a petrol station to support his wife and two children back in Albania, will spend the rest of his day in the crowded Athens subway "because police rarely storm the trains while out in the open chances are I'll be picked up."

An estimated 350,000 Albanians work in Greece following the Communist regime's collapse in Tirana in 1990, earning cash for families scraping by in Europe's poorest nation.

Although thousands are regularly expelled, the number has remained relatively constant because others cross the mountainous border illegally to take their place.

The Northern League, Ms. Pivetti's own party, distanced itself from her call to repeal the abortion law and simultaneous calls on Italy's Catholics to reassess themselves in politics following the collapse of the long-dominant Christian Democrats.

"God preserve us from a Catholic party," League leader Umberto Bossi said in comments published by Corriere della Sera newspaper. "God save us from fundamentalist parties."

Luigi Rossi, parliamentary spokesman for the Northern League in parliament, slammed Ms. Pivetti's religious zeal.

"Every form of religious fundamentalism is blasphemous and goes against the sovereignty of God," he told reporters.

Members of Mr. Berlusconi's Forza Italia (Go Italy) party also criticised her. But ministers with the neo-fascist National Alliance — the third main coalition partner — have backed her call for an end to abortion, underscoring divisions within Mr. Berlusconi's government.

Abortion on demand during the first three months of pregnancy in Italy has been legal since 1978, a policy strongly endorsed in a 1981 referendum.

Mr. Berlusconi's government said earlier this month it would not review the law despite pressure from the National Alliance and calls by some Catholic groups.

Sri Lanka premier seeks army vjews to end war

COLOMBO (R) — Sri Lanka's new Prime Minister Chandrika Bandaranaike Kumaratunga is seeking the army's views on ways to end the 11-year Tamil separatist revolt, which has killed 30,000 people, officials said Monday.

Ms. Kumaratunga, whose People's Alliance coalition swept to power in the Aug 16 general election, has summoned top Defence Ministry officials, armed forces commanders and battlefield officers for talks Thursday.

A senior army officer told Reuters the prime minister would discuss lifting an economic embargo, implementing a ceasefire and formulating a political solution to end the war.

The government has tentatively agreed to lift the four-year-old embargo on the rebel-controlled Jaffna peninsula in the north and has invited the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam guerrillas for unconditional

nathan newspaper, in its Saturday edition, quoted the rebel's chief spokesman Anton Balasingham as saying: "The doors are open for negotiation. We are prepared for peace talks."

He also said the government should make a goodwill gesture of declaring a ceasefire, lifting the economic embargo and opening safe land route for travellers to the north.

It was unclear from Mr. Balasingham's comments if the rebels would participate in talks without those measures.

On Wednesday Army Commander Lieutenant-General Gerry De Silva will discuss possible peace moves with senior officers based in the north and the east, where the rebels are fighting for a separate homeland for their Tamil minority community.

The officer said a military offensive in the north planned just before the par-

threw out Mr. Mokhehe and appointed a caretaker government.

"The European Union... calls upon the king and the armed forces to abide by the provisions of the constitution and to respect the democratically elected government of Lesotho," the statement said, issued through the German embassy here.

In the tiny kingdom itself Monday, residents appeared to have adopted a wait-and-see attitude pending the next step by the king, diplomats said.

King Letsie has been given until Thursday by South African President Nelson Mandela and his Zimbabwean and Botswana counterparts Robert Mugabe and Quett Masire to reinstate Mr. Mokhehe's government.

The monarch is also expected this week to abdicate and restore his father, Moshoeshoe II, to the throne but was ousted from in 1990 by then military ruler Justin Lekhanya.

EU issues warning to Lesotho king

PRETORIA (AFP) — The European Union Monday threatened a review of diplomatic and economic relations with Lesotho unless King Letsie III reinstates the mountain kingdom's democratically-elected government.

Pressure on the monarch to reverse his ouster of Prime Minister Ntsu Mokhehe has already come from the United States, which suspended economic aid, Britain, which is threatening to follow suit, and South Africa, Zimbabwe and Botswana, which have jointly issued King Letsie with an ultimatum.

In a statement, the European Union said that unless the constitutional process was immediately restored, "the European Union will proceed to a review of the relations between the European Union and Lesotho, including the programmes for development cooperation."

In a pre-dawn coup on Aug. 17, King Letsie suspended parts of the constitu-

schools have reopened and everyone just seems to be waiting and waiting," a diplomat told AFP from the Lesotho capital Maseru.

On Monday and Tuesday last week, the entire country came to a halt when tens of thousands heeded a call by anti-monarchists for a general strike.

"The meeting in Pretoria seems to have eased the tension," the diplomat added, referring to talks held Thursday between King Letsie, Mr. Mandela, Mr. Mugabe and Mr. Masire and attended by Mr. Mokhehe.

The three presidents told King Letsie his actions were unconstitutional and gave him a week to reverse his ouster.

The diplomat said it was "hoped" that talks between King Letsie and Mr. Mokhehe's Basotho Congress Party (BCP) would begin Monday or Tuesday but BCP General Secretary Shakhane Mokhehe told AFP Monday that, as yet,

there had been no contact

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Chairman of the Board of Directors:
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MOHAMMAD AMAD

Editor-in-Chief:
GEORGE S. HAWATMEH

Editorial and advertising offices:
Jordan Press Foundation,
University Road, P.O. Box 6710, Amman, Jordan.

Telephones: 667171/6, 670141-4

Telex: 21497 ALRAI JO

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Not by bread alone ...

EDUCATION Minister Abdal Rasuf Rawabdeh is of course right in calling for better pay for teachers but he could be off course if he thinks that salary increments across the board and better economic conditions alone are enough to secure quality education in the country. There are many qualified teachers instructing our students, yet there are those who are not really fit for the job. Thus improving salaries and allowances for all teachers without regard to performance on the job would end up putting the good and the bad on the same level. We are wholeheartedly supportive of improving the lot of our educators but only after failed teachers are weeded out of the system.

At the same time the aim of the Ministry of Education should be to seek out the gifted teachers for special consideration and treatment. Naturally it would be such an upheaval if the majority of the present generation of teachers are left out suddenly in the cold with no employment. What could be more humane and sensible instead is to start a process of quality improvement among Jordanian teachers by providing the most qualified with the most material incentives. Teachers, like other professionals, do not live on bread alone. Those who practise teaching need other incentives as simple as appreciation, recognition and an overall positive atmosphere that are just as rewarding as material considerations. Just as the tendency in the country was against allowing teachers the right to form a union, they should be entitled to have other mechanisms through which they can speak out in a democratic way on their profession and how to enhance it. Teachers themselves are in the best position to plead their case.

There is no effective way to deal with the current plight in education other than involving teachers themselves in the decision-making as well as the healing processes that have to appear at the end of the tunnel. Still such improvements in the educational system of the country are only part of the issue. School curricula, choice of books, ending of forced sex segregation and above all methods of teaching are also very important aspects of the teaching experience that would have to be addressed.

The make or break point in all these endeavours is who is going to make the final determination on such subjects. We think boards of education composed of enlightened people should set the standards of education in all spheres. It must be recognised at all times that the ultimate purpose of education is to train our youngsters on how to think freely and responsibly on their own, having provided them with the basic knowledge and necessary information about the world around them.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

A COLUMNIST in Al Ra'i daily Monday called on the government to ignore voices calling for the postponement of the second parliamentary session due in October and said that the government ought to inform the Lower House of all that is going on in the peace process. There is no justification for delaying the opening of Parliament, which ought to learn of the government's achievements in the peace process, said Tareq Masarweh. The government ought to face the opposition with confidence and place the peace process, and social and economic developments taking place in the region, at the top of the agenda. The paper's writer, expressing the view that the majority of parliamentarians will support the government's views with regard to the peace process, the writer said that the government has nothing to fear and has to do everything possible to maintain cooperation between the executive and the legislative branches of government in Jordan.

AL RA'I Arabic daily praised Turkey for its endeavours to lift the U.N. sanctions on Iraq and for reaffirming Ankara's concern over the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Arab country. Needless to say that Turkey has a strategic interest in a stable and developing Middle East not only because it is part of the region but also because it is affected by regional, social or economic developments taking place in the region, said the paper. The paper's writer, expressing the view that the majority of parliamentarians will support the government's views with regard to the peace process, the writer said that the government has nothing to fear and has to do everything possible to maintain cooperation between the executive and the legislative branches of government in Jordan.

Nuclear black market: much ado about not much

By Josef Joffe

MUNICH — Pssst, wanna build a bomb? Come to Germany, it's hog heaven for plutonium, lithium and other goodies that go into the making of nuclear or even thermonuclear weapons.

Fortunately, that is poppycock, even though German authorities have counted 440 illicit nuclear deals since 1991.

That is a startling number, but on closer inspection the incidents do not add up to Apocalypse Now.

It is grammes and microgrammes, a few drops of caesium here and a handful of lithium there. And the big haul that Munich police proudly presented this month — "the biggest-ever plutonium find in Germany, and probably in the world" — was not the real stuff.

It was 300 grammes of mixed-oxide fuel, a blend of natural (non-bomb) uranium and plutonium that powers civilian reactors. A terrorist would have a very hard time separating the

bomb-grade plutonium from the rest of the fuel.

Earlier in the summer, the world was similarly shocked with tall tales of plutonium and uranium busts in Germany. On closer inspection, the catch turns out to be six grammes of the one and less than one gram of the other. If you want to build a bomb this way, you would have to be very patient. Since your average terrorist is not exactly a bomb Meister, he would have to acquire at least nine kilograms of pure plutonium metal. Even then, his problem would only begin.

The basic recipe he can get from a public library. After that, it is precision work of the highest caliber that only an advanced economy can master. Machining a perfect plutonium sphere, surrounding it with a decent neutron reflector, enveloping it with high explosives all of which must go off in the same millisecond to compress the core into a critical mass. Carlos could not do it, and neither could Libya.

So why the excitement that galvanises European

and American newsmagazines to lead with cover stories such as "Nukes for Sale" or "The Blackmailers' New Weapons"? Is Russia really flooding the market with bomb-grade material? And is Germany really the place where countries seeking the nuclear bomb are heading with their nuclear shopping lists?

Hardly. "The European market," a German expert told Newsweek, "consists almost exclusively of undercover policemen." The chief prosecutor of the city-state of Bremen confirms: "There is no evidence of a genuine market for plutonium in Germany." In other words, it is Amateur Hour rather than an Armageddon — a story of countless sting operations netting desperate small-timers in search of instant riches.

An investigating commission of the German Parliament might well ponder why this is so — why the police and the secret services are creating a climate of doom in the name of law enforcement. Cynics have a quick answer. The government is pushing hard for legislation that would give

the intelligence services extensive new powers of domestic surveillance currently not sanctioned by the constitution. What better way to convince the sceptics than to foster visions of imminent nuclear disaster?

But if there is a danger, it is neither clear nor present. Although it may well be true that corruption in Russia is rising while the state's grip is loosening, there is no evidence that bomb-grade material is slipping out of the country in significant quantities.

Nor would this be very plausible. As a nuclear power, Russia has absolutely no interest in sharing its exalted place with the nuclear wannabes of this world. Yes, there is leakage from Russian laboratories and power plants, and some of the stuff ends up in Europe. But the last thing Boris Yeltsin will countenance is the looting of well-guarded Russian plutonium stores for private gain and profit.

Nor is there a real demand that would get the well-organised Russian underground into the game. Terrorists can wreak havoc much more cheaply with that blend of fertiliser and

diesel fuel which almost wrecked the World Trade Centre in New York. And rogue states are not interested in a few kilos of plutonium.

They don't want one or two bombs, which would invite deadly preemption, but a whole fuel cycle, which would yield nuclear independence and an arsenal large enough for dispersion and concealment.

Nonetheless, Russia and the West should take notice. Sometimes, drops do presage a flood, and hence it is high time to put in place all those dams that we have discussed for years — from a functioning accounting system (there is none in Russia) to physical safeguards installed at storage sites, border posts and airports. For nuclear disarmament is now releasing about 100 tonnes of pure plutonium a year. In the hands of experienced bomb makers, that is good for up to 20,000 bombs.

The writer is foreign and editorial page editor of Süddeutsche Zeitung. This comment is reprinted from the International Herald Tribune.

M. KAHIL



India, Pakistan still far from nuclear-free peace

By Nelson Graves
Reuters

NEW DELHI — A declaration by a former Pakistani prime minister that his country has the atom bomb could set back U.S.-led efforts to snuff out the risk of a nuclear conflict between Pakistan and India, defence experts say.

The statement by Nawaz Sharif will make it harder for Islamabad or New Delhi to renounce the nuclear option that has hung over South Asia for two decades, analysts and diplomats said.

"This will make it harder to talk peace, at least for now," said one Western diplomat.

But Mr. Sharif's bald assertion last week, flatly denied by the present Pakistani government of Benazir Bhutto, does not fundamentally change the nuclear equation in the region.

Nor is Saturday's Pakistani offer to renounce nuclear weapons if India did the same likely to impress Delhi.

India has long said regional nuclear agreements without China, with which it fought a brief war in 1962, are pointless. It is likely to give Islamabad the same answer it gave when Pakistan first made the proposal 12 years ago — No.

Experts are split over whether Pakistan or India actually have a bomb in hand. But they agree each nation is at least capable of quickly making and, significantly, delivering one.

Mr. Sharif and Ms. Bhutto are locked in a bitter test of political wills, and some experts said Mr. Sharif could have been bluffing.

But Indian analysts and newspapers said Mr. Sharif's assertion, coupled with charges that Pakistan has tried to smuggle in nuclear components including a recent batch of plutonium through Germany, could only stiffen New Delhi's nuclear commitment.

"This creates a much greater compulsion not to be caught napping," said Pran Chopra of the Centre for Policy Research.

India conducted a nuclear test in 1974 but says it has not built an atomic weapon, despite pressure to do so.

Mr. Sharif's statement has come as a shot in the arm of the nuclear lobby in our country," the Pioneer newspaper said.

Savita Pande of the Institute of Defence Studies and Analysis said India should now declare publicly it can build a nuclear weapon and "deliver" it to a foreign target.

"It is time to declare our nuclear capability," she said.

Western diplomats said Mr. Sharif may simply have been trying to set a political trap for Ms. Bhutto.

Several experts said Mr. Sharif's statement could have been an "arranged leak," made with Ms. Bhutto's blessing, to put pressure on Washington to build up Pakistan's conventional defences.

"The logic is simple," the Patriot newspaper wrote. "In the absence of sophisticated conventional weapons Pakistan has to rely on the nuclear option in any future war with India."

One Western diplomat said Mr. Sharif's remark played into the hands of India, which has been desperately trying to depict Pakistan as a reckless nuclear power and threat to world peace.

"The Indians are gleeful," the envoy said.

But Mr. Chopra said while it might be harder now to rid the subcontinent of atomic weapons, Washington and New Delhi seemed finally to be converging towards a common nuclear goal.

For years Washington has unsuccessfully pressed India and Pakistan to sign the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, which would bar them from developing nuclear weapons.

U.S. officials, including Defence Secretary William Perry, said recently it would be unrealistic to roll back the two countries' nuclear programmes.

Instead Washington appears to want them to freeze their programmes and, through confidence-building measures, minimise the risk they would use nuclear weapons against one another.

LETTERS

Fee not too high

To the Editor:

CHRIS LARTER's accusation (letters, Jordan Times, Aug. 27) that the Ministry of Tourism and the cabinet wish to make some tourists feel unwelcome is, to say the least, a distortion of the truth.

As a young engineer, travelling in Europe many years ago, I found that most museums were inaccessible to me due to my limited budget. I did not feel a grudge nor did I accuse the French ministry of tourism for instance of charging exorbitant rates for the boat rides, the Eiffel Tour climb, admission to museums etc. It is a sad fact of life that in the world there will always be the "haversack brigade" who cannot expect to visit everywhere during their visits abroad.

We, in Jordan, need to improve the return on our national, inherited archaeological treasures in order to better take care of them without dipping into budgets allocated for other sectors. Increasing fees is a step in the right direction. The JD20 fee is very reasonable and should be maintained. I also recommend a review upwards of all other admission fees around Jordan in order to reflect today's cost of living.

On the other hand, I fully support R. Ghul's complaint about the deplorable state of some of the resthouses in major archaeological sites around Jordan (letters, Jordan Times, Aug. 27).

I suggest that toilets: for instance are completely rebuilt and an admission fee of around 100 to 150 fils be applied, same as in most such installations in Europe.

A person or more could be made in charge of these toilets and be paid directly and generously from the fees collected, thus offering a major incentive to keep these clean all the time. Inspectors will visit these sites regularly and replace the staff if the sanitary conditions fall below the level of "excellent."

It is high time that this issue was resolved once and for all.

However, on the subject of the high cost of a soda can of JD 1.800, I can mention that this practice is common all over the world. In Europe, this summer, we had to pay frequently around JD 1,200 to 1,500 for 1/2 litre of water!

Freddy Lama,
Amman.

Shocking remarks

To the Editor:

IT IS interesting to read what an American writes to her ambassador about her concept of embassy and home, so I started reading E. Yaghi's "Someplace called home," (The Jordan Times, Aug. 25-26). But I was very shocked when I read Mrs. Yaghi's comment on the personnel of the library of the American Centre: Their command of English as well as their attitude to library users, including Mrs. Yaghi. The librarian, according to her, is "kind of stuffy and does not seem to speak much English" and her helper "seems to be in even a worse state."

As a frequent user of the library in the last 20 years or so, I feel that I should respond to Mrs. Yaghi's remarks. I have always received the most active, positive and ready assistance from the personnel of the library, especially the present librarian and her assistant who have been in the library for the past several years. Whether I search for an article, a periodical, a book, a movie or a video-tape, I have always found them ready to help. I can easily say, without any hesitation, that they go out of their way to help.

Nor was their help to me a matter of exception; I have noticed the same help offered to any library user who sought their help during my frequent, lengthy visits to the library. Their English is indeed very good — anyone can visit the library of the American Centre and verify this for him/herself. It is to the present personnel of the library of the American Centre, and to those who occupied their position before them, that I have been able to keep up with what is new in the field of my specialisation and to impart it to hosts of my graduate and undergraduate students at the University of Jordan.

Issam Safady,
Professor of English,
University of Jordan,
Amman.

The Jordan Times welcomes letters and contributions from its readers on any subject they wish to tackle. Letters intended for publication, however, should contain the writer's full name and preferably address as well. Names can be withheld only upon request and under special circumstances. Letters are subject to editing. The newspaper is not responsible for the return of unused manuscripts.

'Racist Rome'

By Claudia Parsons
Reuters

ROME — A series of racist attacks has earned Rome the title of Italy's "capital of intolerance" and further unsettled foreigners already worried by the rise of the far right in politics.

With the hard right installed in government following March general elections, pressure groups say the Italian capital's large immigrant community is frequently the target of violent assaults.

The latest incident to hit the headlines occurred on the Mediterranean island of Sardinia where five bolidaying Romans attacked a Senegalese beach vendor with broken bottles.

"Dirty nigger, in Rome we burn your sort," newspaper headlines quoted one of the attackers as shouting.

In June, a Rome market used as a mass-shelter by homeless immigrants was destroyed by a fire which police are treating as arson.

"Rome has some 70 per cent of all the immigrants in Italy, and many of them live in terrible conditions — on the streets or in dirty hotels with no water," said Loretta Caponi, head of Italy's Forum for the Foreign Community.

She said the forum was working to pressure the leftist local government to provide facilities for the immigrant community and to apply the laws designed to support them.

"The problem is a national one, but it is most acute in Rome because of the large immigrant population, and because of the resentment caused by poor living conditions," Ms. Caponi added.

Italy's immigrant population is officially put at more than one million but the real figure including illegal residents is believed to be some 1.5 million.

Racist attacks in Italy are often blamed on far right skinhead groups known as "Naziskins", with their familiar cropped hair, black shirts and Nazi-style salutes.

But Ms. Caponi said that less than half of attacks in 1993 were committed by "Naziskins."

"It's no use always blaming 'Naziskins', when in fact it is ordinary people like those in the Sardinian attack," she said.

"We don't need more repressive laws but genuine social initiatives from both local and national government to improve conditions."

She also praised the political education campaigns used in Germany which may have helped cut the hard-right Republican vote to 3.9 per cent in the European elections this year, just over half its showing in the 1989 Euro-elections and below the five per cent needed to win a seat.

While electoral support for German right-wingers appears to be slipping, Italy's rightists have enjoyed unaccustomed success at the polls.

Their rise has been boosted by the neo-Fascist-led National Alliance's attempts to distance itself from the jack-boot image of the Nazis.

Norwegian writer Myrjam Geelmuyden, victim of an anti-Semitic attack earlier this month, said the presence of five National Alliance ministers in Silvio Berlusconi's government was a worrying development.

"I think that with the new government the far right is gaining a sort of respectability. These people can be more open and confident about their views now," said Ms. Geelmuyden, who had her cheek slashed by three youths in the normally peaceful central Italian town of Assisi.

The National Alliance won more than 13 per cent of the vote in this year's general election. Its core party is the Italian Social Movement (MSI) which traces its roots to wartime Fascist dictator Benito Mussolini.

There are some people willing to stand up to the racists.

In the same week as the Sardinian attack, a woman was treated in the same island hospital for a broken arm after she tried to stop another racist assault.

"I'm no heroine," she said, "I don't want to be the protagonist in this story."

Features

Breakthroughs in the Jordanian-Israeli track of negotiations represent a delayed response to logical progression of Madrid peace process — Majali

Prime minister urges exceptional debt relief effort for the Kingdom

'Jordan must be able to deter or contain external military threats'

FOLLOWING IS the full text of the speech which Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali gave at the Los Angeles-based Rand Foundation Sunday on behalf of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan

ON a calm summer's day last month, His Majesty King Hussein announced that the state of war between Jordan and Israel was finally over.

No doubt many of you watched the ceremony on the White House lawn and saw His Majesty the King and Prime Minister Rabin meet for the first time. Many of you will have followed the various developments since that historic July afternoon; their addresses to a joint session of the two houses of Congress, His Majesty's return to Jordan, overflying Israeli territory for the first time, and the implementation of several bold measures intended to speed the achievement of peace on the ground.

Of these, perhaps the most telling have been the opening of direct telephone links and a new border crossing point between Jordan and Israel; for both of these symbolise the new spirit of communication and openness between our countries. Not a day passes without our removing another brick from the wall that has separated us.

It might seem to some of you that these breakthroughs have come out of the blue. However, they are in reality a delayed response to the logical progression of the Madrid peace process to this point.

They take place against a background of considered, long-term and carefully negotiated peace-making. I would like today to retrace some of this background with you, to place these breakthroughs in context, and to make some remarks as to the possibilities for the future.

Jordan has been committed to a negotiated settlement to the Arab-Israeli conflict longer than any other party. Jordan played an active role in formulating U.N. Security Council Resolution 242, and has consistently supported resolution 242 and 338 as the basis for peace in the Middle East. Our commitment to the cause of peace has never been in question. Indeed, Jordan played a key role in enabling the Madrid process to be launched at all. For back in October 1991, when the Israeli government of the day refused to negotiate with a Palestinian delegation, it was Jordan which provided an umbrella for Palestinian negotiators.

While electoral support for the right-wing has been slipping, rightists have enjoyed continued success in polls. The rise has been helped by the fact that the rightists have been able to distance themselves from the jack-pot image of the Palestinian Authority. The rise has also been helped by the fact that the rightists have been able to distance themselves from the jack-pot image of the Palestinian Authority.

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Since then the peace process has made significant strides towards resolving the Arab-Israeli conflict, and the Palestine question that lies at its heart on the Palestinian-Israeli track, the mutual recognition of Israel and the PLO, and the implementation of the Palestinian autonomy accord, were vital achievements. The PLO, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, are negotiating directly with Israel. They are installed in Gaza and Jericho, and conduct their affairs under hard conditions with a certain degree of freedom. Their destiny is at last in their own hands. For all the Arab parties, this is cause for optimism, representing as it does the beginning of a new era in the region.

On the Jordanian-Israeli track, the common agenda for peace talks with Israel has been vitally important. The significance of this agenda, agreed last year, cannot be overestimated. It has provided a framework for substantive negotiations, and given us a workable context within which to carry out a series of moves designed to breach the gap between the sides, both at the negotiating table and among domestic constituencies.

The range of agreements reached in Washington two months ago were the first fruits of the common agenda. At that time, Jordan and Israel formed a joint commission to deal with the issues of borders, security, water and the environment. We agreed to undertake a number of common projects, including the construction of a Red Sea coastal road. And we agreed, for the first time, to continue our talks in the region. So it was that bilateral Jordanian-Israeli direct talks took place last month at Wadi Araba, denoting the start of a new phase in the relationship between our two countries. These talks dealt with the questions that are the actual substance of peace: The concrete building blocks that form its architecture.

Jordan has always been prepared to sign a peace treaty with Israel, given that the outstanding issues are negotiated and settled to the satisfaction of all. There would be no point in conducting peace talks otherwise. But a peace treaty has to have a content, and we are currently working on building its content. We do not want to ignore thorny problems, and hope that they will resolve themselves at a later date; for we know that a worthwhile treaty must anticipate such problems, and provide appropriate mechanisms for their resolution. In

our case, the issues of borders, water and security have to be dealt with before any treaty can be signed. Our negotiating strategy has been to maintain a delicate balance between the need to address all the details of these items on the one hand, and the need to sustain the momentum of peace on the other.

Perhaps the best way to indicate to you the nature of the task at hand would be to outline our goals in each of the outstanding areas.

In terms of borders, we seek to delineate the border established by the League of Nations in 1922 and subsequently recognised by the U.N. as the Jordanian-Palestinian border. In the Wadi Araba talks, Jordan and Israel committed themselves to definitively demarcating the boundary, and agreed upon modalities.

In terms of water, we seek to ascertain our equitable share of the common waters of the Jordan and Yarmouk rivers, and to work out modalities for future cooperation over water for broad regional cooperation, in the form of joint projects or sea water desalination, will ultimately be needed. I am pleased to tell you that both sides are now committed to the proper management, development and conservation of existing water resources, and to cooperation in the future.

Finally, both sides have abjured any actions detrimental to each other's security. These negotiating achievements are not to be taken lightly. They indicate the best of intentions, and promise much; but they do not as yet constitute the substance of just, lasting and comprehensive peace, as envisaged by U.N. Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338.

However, the progress made by our negotiators was sufficiently encouraging that the leaders of our two countries opted to meet in Washington, and to provide a public boost to the peace process.

The meeting in Washington July 25 between His Majesty King Hussein and Prime Minister Rabin thus came as the culmination of all our endeavours. The Washington Declaration, which they signed on the White House lawn together with President Clinton, is a key document in the history of our countries, marking a significant turning point in the Arab-Israeli conflict.

The declaration officially ends the state of belligerence between Jordan and Israel, while explicitly recognising that stability and growth must be assured and seen to be

working, enabling Arabs and Israelis to live side by side without fear or prejudice. The declaration also noted the need for economic negotiations to prepare for future bilateral cooperation, including the abolition of all economic boycotts.

At this point, perhaps I might turn from the political aspects of peace-making to consider its all-important economic dimension. There is a vital need to take on board the broader economic and human implications of peace, and to formulate strategies for effective response. The experience of Eastern Europe has demonstrated the importance of this. The Middle East has likewise earned the right to enjoy the peace dividend if peace is to take root on the ground.

Since 1970, Israel has had unrestricted access to the markets of the occupied territories while barring Palestinian goods from Israeli markets, preventing Palestinian investment in the occupied territories, and severely restricting imports and exports and altogether prohibiting investment from the rest of the region. As a result of these policies Israel has gained a trade surplus of \$7.5 billion since 1970. The Israeli boycott has cost Jordan a \$2 billion deficit in the same period. Given these figures — Israel figures, incidentally — I am sure you will agree that reciprocity in dealing with the issues of boycotts, the paramount issue remains that of debt. The \$7 billion overhang which we accumulated as a direct result of the conflict represents a real obstacle to our progressive policies. It is very hard to attract foreign investment, to upgrade infrastructure, or to participate in regional projects, with this debt burden. If Jordan is to continue supporting the peace process, to continue in our democratisation and economic liberalisation policies, to continue to be an island of stability and moderation in the Middle East, an exceptional debt relief effort is required. We hope that the American administration's bold lead on this issue and the immediate positive response of the United Kingdom will be followed by other creditor nations and institutions.

It is clear that the uncertainty engendered by peace-making has its economic costs. The short run fiscal impact of peace is likely to be negative for Jordan. The World Bank estimates our GDP will be reduced by 4 per cent annually. Jordan's currency has been adversely affected by the peace process.

Conjecture as to the establishment of the Palestinian currency has led to a movement out of JD's and into dollars in the occupied territories. This has in turn prompted parallel speculative runs in Jordan, vastly diminishing the Central Bank of

Jordan's net reserves, and raises fears of devaluation and destabilisation beyond the purely economic sphere. The speedy establishment of a stabilisation fund or a bridge loan, with the major donors involved, is in our view essential if this scenario is to be averted. Effective monitoring of the ongoing economic situation, coupled with rapid and appropriate responses, will be essential in the months to come if stability is to be assured and peace-making is to proceed smoothly.

In the longer term, international investment in development projects that serve the region and its peoples will be absolutely essential. It is equally important that such projects be founded upon sound concepts, and that they receive the support of international financial institutions, governments and multinational corporations alike. Direct private investment can play a key role, as can joint ventures and appropriate technology transfer. However, peace requires an enduring structure to tackle the "over-arching" problems of the economies of the region: disparities created by conflict, overextended public sectors, addition to aid on the one hand and oil revenues on the other. An economic framework, covering human cooperation, resources cooperation and security, is needed. The development of such a framework is therefore among the most vital tasks at hand.

Having examined the political and economic dimensions of peace-making, I would like to conclude my remarks by considering the implications for security in the Middle East.

If peace is to endure through the generations, it must guarantee security for all: not the bogus security that comes from the acquisition of ever-more destructive weaponry, but the genuine security that stems from common interests, goals and methods. In our increasingly inter-dependent world, viable structures of security and cooperation are increasingly necessary."

whether in terms of trade, investment, labour, capital or services. In the long term, we believe that a Middle East free trade agreement — a MEFTA along the line of NAFTA or EFTA, would be in the interests of all the peoples of the region. However, this vision cannot be realised until conditions of

peace prevail. One reason for this is the existence of an Israeli boycott of Arab trade and investment. The issue of boycotts is the rights and obligations of each party. It lays out a series of powerful confidence building measures, designed to ease the transition from the state of war to the state of peace for which we are all

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peace prevail. One reason for this is the existence of an Israeli boycott of Arab trade and investment. The issue of boycotts is the rights and obligations of each party. It lays out a series of powerful confidence building measures, designed to ease the transition from the state of war to the state of peace for which we are all

assured. I have no doubt that this is well within our capabilities, given the goodwill of the international community, and the serious intentions of the parties involved.

An issue of great concern in the peace process is that of boycotts and free trade. Jordan is working for the liberalisation and dismantlement of all barriers in the region.

Few billions will not help budding Palestinian economy, says Malki

Following is the second and last part of an article on a lecture on peace and the economy. In this section the speaker focuses on the monetary side, on the services sector, with an emphasis on tourism and on the probable effects of the return of thousands of displaced people.

The first part of this article appeared in the Aug. 29, 1994 issue of the Jordan Times.

By Samir Shafiq
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — "Palestinians will be totally wrong to believe that they can build their economy on international aid," Dr. Malki told the audience at a lecture on economy and peace at the Orthodox Club.

"The \$2-\$3 billion aid mentioned until now will only help cover initial current expenses and some infrastructure, but it will not be enough and it cannot achieve a Palestinian economic emergence," he said.

He added: "An economic thrust needs permanent investment and diversified qualifications which can only be secured from migrant Palestinian funds estimated at tens of billions and from Palestinian know-how scattered worldwide."

Dr. Malki pointed out that once the economy begins rolling, Arab funds would enter the cycle.

However, the lecturer highlighted the importance of security and safety and emphasized that a Palestinian economic thrust should be based on two fundamentals: economic freedom and political democracy.

"Once that is achieved, and once production factors of qualified personnel and capital start to move west-

wards to Palestine, one station on the way would be the East Bank," Dr. Malki predicted.

He foresaw the mechanism as supporting and cementing Jordanian-Palestinian economic integration.

The Jordanian dinar and the Palestinian economy

Dr. Malki expects the Palestinian authority to issue its own currency and he sees no problem having two national currencies, the Jordanian dinar and a Palestinian pound, as long as any of them is convertible to the other and as long as both economies are based on free transfer of funds.

"The problem will arise if an imbalance or distortion hits any of the Jordanian or Palestinian economy. Then, that irregularity will affect the currency and result in negative consequences, irrespective of whether there are one or two currencies," the lecturer explained.

He expressed conviction that the Jordanian currency would be able to withstand any problem that may arise in the near term.

"In the long-term, it is more probable that the two countries part away in the monetary field because the

continuation requires very close coordination in many aspects and such a situation will be difficult unless there is some form of political integration between Jordan and Palestine," Dr. Malki elaborated.

Service sector

Dr. Malki described the service sector as being "the area of basic struggle" in the region and drew attention to the Israeli strength in the shipping, banking and tourism sectors.

He expressed concern over Israeli sea ports and airports taking away work from Jordanian and Palestinian ports or influencing their establishment and development. Similarly, Israeli banks could attract exporters and importers from Arab areas.

Moreover, Dr. Malki expected the Israeli medical centres to have a slice of the Arab market.

Tourism

There is a near-consensus among international, regional and local experts and academics, as well as businessmen and politicians, that the tourism expansion is coming and that it will be the most prominent feature of the next economic stage.

Dr. Malki did not question the capability of the Israeli tourism industry to compete, and even excel with the Jordanian and Palestinian tourism industries. The question he asked, however, regarded the share the Jordanian tourism industry could acquire of the expected tour-

ism expansion in the region.

Noting that tourism does not need large investments and that tourism expansion yields immediate results and activates employment, in addition to generating hard currency income, Dr. Malki asked: "Are both private and public sectors ready to closely coordinate with the Israeli side on tourism expansion? Are we psychologically and technically mature for that?"

Displaced persons

According to the lecturer, there is an Israeli acceptance of the idea of return of displaced persons, but the question is how many people does the term displaced persons include.

The question can have two answers. If the number should be the same as that of the actual number of people who left the occupied territories in 1967, then the figure would be between 250,000-300,000 persons.

If the number is to include all members of families (meaning ulterior additions) then the figure would rise to about 700,000 persons.

The return of the displaced persons, Dr. Malki noted, would not be immediate. He estimated the process could take between one to five years.

As such, the economic impact of the return of the displaced would be slight, but rising gradually.

The economic effect would affect all living aspects, such as housing, services employment and general utilities, but Dr. Malki described the whole concept as "the with-

drawal or amortisation of about 20 per cent of the general demand in the economy."

"This percentage is enough to cause deep changes in the economic system," he said, adding: "If the withdrawal is sudden, then the changes would be violent and painful."

As an example, he pointed out, the return of 400,000 people would mean emptying 80,000 housing units. This, in turn, would have a smashing effect on rents and on demand on real estate and construction.

On the other hand, the return of the displaced persons would lessen the demand for services and for general utilities, as well as cause a reduction in imports.

"No one can predict at the moment what the net final outcome would be on the economy as a result of the return of the displaced people. However, their return is desired and demanded no matter what the economic consequences would be," Dr. Malki said.

Dr. Malki said that so far, it is only talk of peace that exists in the region and therefore the challenges facing the Kingdom require that the Jordanian authorities formulate a theory for economic security to give the country top economic strength and immunity, just as Israel gives its security the highest priorities and consideration.

"With such a Jordanian economic security being the top priority, Jordan can insist on formulating peace agreements in light of the said theory," Dr. Malki concluded.

U.S. commerce secretary pushes China on trade despite GATT row

BEIJING (AFP) — U.S. Commerce Secretary Ron Brown launched an aggressive campaign in talks with Chinese officials here Monday for more open bilateral trade relations, but China's GATT reentry remained a crucial sticking point.

Mr. Brown, who arrived Saturday for a week-long visit at the head of a presidential trade mission that includes the heads of 24 major U.S. companies, held talks with his Chinese counterpart Wu Yi and Premier Li Peng focusing on key issues such as market access, copyright protection and GATT.

The first official day of the secretary's visit also saw the signing of a landmark accord to expand Sino-U.S. commercial ties, as Chinese and U.S. firms inked two multimillion-dollar contracts.

Mr. Brown is the most senior U.S. official to visit Beijing since President Bill Clinton delinked renewal of China's most favoured nation (MFN) trade status and human rights in May.

While he raised the issue of human rights in a "private" capacity during both meetings, Mr. Brown stressed that bilateral trade was the "primary" of his trip.

A senior U.S. commerce official described the Chinese response to Brown's calls for a more open and transparent trade relationship as "very positive."

But the official admitted that divisions remained over what Beijing views as Washington's blockage of China's early readmission to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT).

"They feel that resistance is unfair and they said that very directly," the official said.

China has accused the United States of making unrealistic demands for GATT reentry, and Foreign Trade Minister Wu warned Mr. Brown that failure to readmit China "will have a direct impact on the development of Sino-U.S. trade relations."

"China will not pay any price for its reentry into GATT and one can never expect China to make a deal at the cost of the nation's national interest," the Xinhua news agency quoted Mr. Wu as saying.

However, while reiterating U.S. support for Chinese membership in GATT, Mr. Brown said certain criteria, including greater trade transparency and equal treatment for Chinese and foreign firms, have to be met.

"When China meets those criteria, it will become a signatory to GATT and part of the World Trade Organisation," which replaces GATT on Jan. 1, Mr. Brown said.

In an upbeat speech Monday morning to the local American Chamber of Commerce, Mr. Brown said Washington was staking steps, with the help of the U.S. Export-Import Bank, to combat the indirect financial support supplied by foreign governments to their businesses in China through tied aid.

"We don't like the fact that our competitors are using tied aid and creating an unfair advantage, but we have decided that if we are going

to be serious about competing, we have to forget about whether we like it or not," he said.

In order to counter "trade-distorting foreign tied-aid credits," the bank "has begun to aggressively match these concessional loans," he added.

Mr. Brown pledged during his visit to promote U.S. interests currently competing for more than \$25 billion in projects to be launched in China over the next three years.

Two of the U.S. firms represented in Mr. Brown's delegation inked two contracts Monday worth some \$160 million with Chinese firms.

Energy giant Westinghouse Electric signed a \$140 million agreement to supply two 350-megawatt steam turbines and other related equipment to the Jiangsu Ligang Electric Power Co.

At the same time, information firm Pitney Bowes inked a \$20 million contract with the Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications to assist in modernising and automating 55,000 post offices in China.

Mr. Brown stressed that he would be seeking major concessions from China in terms of greater access to the service sector here — including banking, insurance and telecommunications — widening the scope of activities allowed for U.S. companies, and relaxing "onerous" profit repatriation limitations.

Jordan Times Tel: 667171

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR TUESDAY AUGUST 30, 1994

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES:

This is a good day to complete that investigative work and come up with some right answers. Sidelstep a foe that keeps turning up in the wrong place when least expected. Think and act constructively.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Add new activities to present one and you can expand very quickly. The evening is fine for social meanderings with family and friends.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Your business ideas are good, so put them in operation without delay for best results. Make your life happier and more productive.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) You understand now what others expect of you and you can please them easily. Show that you have a sense of humour with a little pixie thrown in.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) A good time for accomplishing a great deal of work and for employing a more efficient system to get your assignments completed.

LOVE: (June 22 to August 21) Your ideas need intelligent handling in order to make them more creative and constructive. Relax at home tonight with your loved ones.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) You have good ideas about handling home matters, so waste no time in

putting them across. Sidelstep a troublemaker who will cause problems.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) You have to exert more effort in your tasks to get ahead in career activities. Handle correspondence wisely and you will make a good impression.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Elevate your thoughts so that you can command a greater income in the days ahead. Take no risks with your savings and there will be a surplus.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) You have a good opportunity to advance today, so be quick in seizing it. Don't lose your temper with anyone close to your heart.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Talk over your plans for the future with a trusted adviser before making any important decisions. Express happiness towards your mate.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) This is a good day for being your gregarious self and seeking the company of as many persons as you can. Use common sense on a project.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Put more effort into improving your standing in the community. An unexpected opportunity could come your way now which could be quite beneficial.

Birthstone of August:
Peridot — Golden Quartz

THE Daily Crossword by Valentina Barnes

ACROSS

- Romantic tale
- Dutch cheese
- Prince Charles' game
- 14
- River to the Colorado
- Gayman
- Moldavian pastry
- Pocket bread
- 21
- "The — That Touch Liquor"
- 22
- Floated, as a leather
- 24
- Trading center
- 25
- "Who will — the suit"
- 26
- Popular street
- 29
- Designated snow
- 30
- "Kate and —"
- 34
- work (five)
- 35
- Oklahoma city
- 36
- Novella
- 37
- Chest sounds
- 38
- Practiced method
- 39
- Drumstick
- 40
- Exemplary
- 41
- Variation or duck
- 42
- Artist's studies
- 44
- Teensy—
- 45
- Passive bird
- 46
- Arrived
- 47
- Part of a sonnet
- 50
- Ryng pref
- 51
- guided
- 54
- Norwegian ling
- 55
- Get away from (met)
- 58
- Malfunction
- 59
- Of a time period
- 60
- Church parts
- 61
- Units
- 62
- Slueth wrote
- 63
- Plant parts
- DOWN
- 1
- Hurt
- 2
- Tennis grass
- 3
- Unit of sound
- 4
- Vintage car
- 5
- Kindle
- 6
- Awash site
- 7
- Party snacks
- 8
- Bats
- 9
- Life jackets
- 10
- Easy out, in baseball
- 11
- Neglect
- 12
- Towered the mouth
- 13
- Flourish money
- 18
- Monza money
- 23
- Choir voices
- 24
- Injure severely
- 25
- Kind of nut
- 26
- Consistent or dense
- 27
- George or T.S.
- 28
- Bluish gray
- 29
- Gowns
- 30
- Rabbit fur
- 31
- Plainsman places
- 32
- Plains
- 34
- Chaplain
- 37
- Discoverer of X-rays
- 38
- Trained shelter
- 40
- Boog
- 41
- Laments
- 43
- Hurt
- 44
- Cautious
- 45
- Casals'
- 46
- Instrument
- 47
- Oven
- 48
- Israel airline
- 49
- Leave port
- 50
- At a distance
- 51
- Remains
- 52
- News bit
- 53
- Mrs. Dick
- 54
- Tracy
- 55
- Love product
- 57
- Krazy —

Israel's central bank steps up inflation war

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R) — Israel's central bank stepped up its war against double-digit inflation Monday, announcing its steepest interest rate rise this year.

The decision to raise the basic lending rate to commercial banks by 1.5 percentage points to 14 per cent was another blow to the pocket-book just a week after a looming tax on share profits sent prices plunging on the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange.

"This increase was necessary because we have recently seen signs of an acceleration in the inflation rate," Bank of Israel governor Jacob Frenkel told reporters.

He said inflation, originally forecast at eight per cent for 1994, had risen to about 14 per cent in annual terms during the first seven months of the year.

"The Bank of Israel and

the treasury are formulating a series of additional steps which will be presented to the government and should contribute in the long-term to the fight to bring inflation down," Mr. Frenkel said without elaborating.

"Our real multi-year goal is a return to single-digit inflation, and over time, achieving inflation rates such as those in industrialised countries with which we trade," he said.

The rate rise was likely to be followed by a corresponding increase in commercial banks' lending rates. They followed the central bank's lead when it raised rates by 0.5 percentage points in June and July.

"Up until today, the Bank of Israel had supplied very cheap money to the market," Mr. Frenkel said, leading to a

situation where the central bank's lending rate, 12.5 per cent, was lower than inflation.

The rate rise — bankers had predicted an increase of up to two percentage points — appeared to have little impact on the Tel Aviv stock market. The benchmark Mishkan blue chip index was 1.26 points, or 0.72 per cent, higher at 175.52 at mid-day.

The central bank and treasury had blamed inflation mainly on high housing prices. But in its statement, the bank said price rises were now across the board, reflecting a "rapid expansion of market demand."

Israelis seem to be spending as if there were no tomorrow. Almost anything from air tickets to groceries can be bought with no- or low-interest instalments. At

least one supermarket chain automatically allows customers huying today to pay in November.

Economists say businesses, faced with higher borrowing rates, could cut back on generous credit terms to customers, leading to a spending slowdown.

Dan Propper, president of the Israeli Industrialists' Association, accused the central bank and the government of using interest rates as the sole weapon against inflation rather than adopting a "clear comprehensive policy" to beat it.

The government is to debate next week a series of inflation-fighting measures. They include workforce and wage cuts in the public sector, and proposals to increase price competition by opening markets to imports.

Polish leaders: Mass privatisation to go ahead

WARSAW (R) — Polish government leaders say a mass privatisation scheme will eventually be launched in this former communist state but its scope and timetable has yet to be fixed.

The plan aims at giving citizens a chance to be shareholders in a huge scloft of state-owned industries.

"The mass privatisation programme will be implemented," Privatisation Minister Wieslaw Kaczmarek told parliament, answering queries by opposition deputies concerned about the plan's delay.

But Prime Minister Waldeemar Pawlak said it remained to be decided whether the programme would be launched in its full version or be trimmed.

"We must not rush, we

have to analyse all possible consequences," Mr. Pawlak said.

The scheme calls for giving each adult Pole a chunk of the country's industry by privatising some 460 state-owned enterprises in one go.

Its implementation has been delayed for more than three months because Mr. Pawlak has refused to approve the last batch of 105 companies to join the programme.

He said he first had to analyse whether the firms in question should be in the programme, remain state-owned or be privatised in some other way.

Mr. Kaczmarek said the decision about these companies' future would be made in the first half of September.

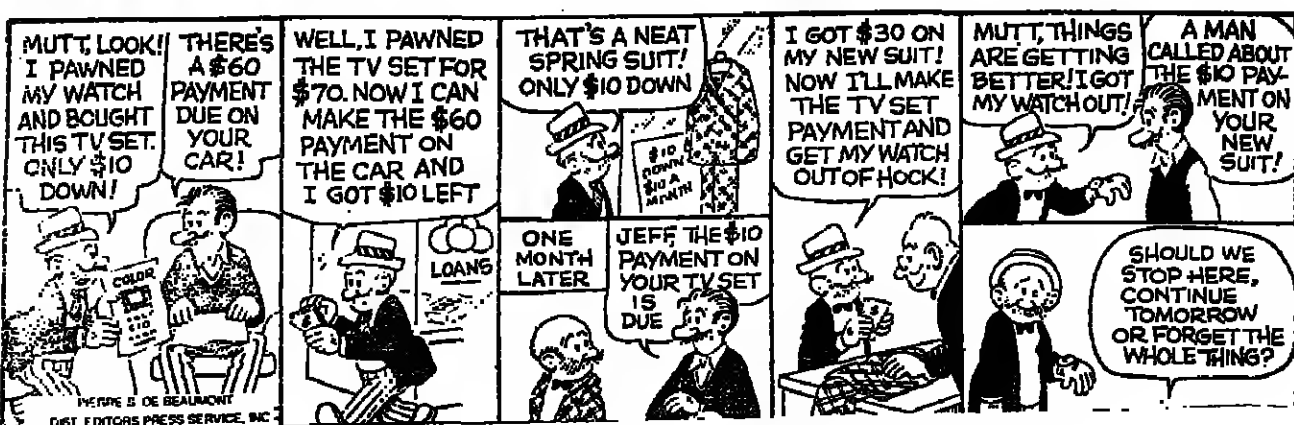
Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt'n'Jeff



THE BETTER HALF. By Glasbergen



JUMBLE THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

MOGAD

CATHY

BOLTAC

MANOSH

WHAT YOU GENERALLY HAVE TO PAY FOR "HOT" MERCHANDISE.

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here:

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: MOGUL STOIC BOOICE COOPER

Answer: "What kids are usually told to do when they sit down — SIT UP"

Financial Markets

Jordan Times
In co-operation with
Cairo Amman Bank

U.S. Dollar in International Markets

Currency	New York Close Date: 26/8/94	Tokyo Close Date: 29/8/94
Sterling Pound	1.5310	1.5330
Deutsche Mark	1.5745	1.5730
Swiss Franc	1.3300	1.3290
French Franc	5.3920	5.3852
Japanese Yen	100.45	100.20
European Currency Unit	1.2080	1.2115

100 per \$100
* European Opening at 8.00 a.m. GMT

European Currency Unit Rates

Currency	1 MYH	3 MYH	6 MYH	12 MYH
U.S. Dollar	4.50	4.62	5.00	5.50
Sterling Pound	4.75	5.18	5.68	6.37
Deutsche Mark	4.62	4.75	4.81	5.12
Swiss Franc	3.93	4.06	4.25	4.50
French Franc	5.25	5.37	5.62	6.12
Japanese Yen	1.93	2.12	2.12	2.50
European Currency Unit	5.55	5.72	6.12	6.54

Date: 29/8/1994

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.6980	0.7000
Sterling Pound	1.0694	1.0747
Deutsche Mark	0.4429	0.4451
Swiss Franc	0.5242	0.5268
French Franc	0.1295	0.1301
Japanese Yen	0.0094	0.0096
Dutch Guilder	0.3945	0.3965
Swedish Krona	0.0438	0.0440
Italian Lira	0.0000	0.0000
Belgian Franc	0.0000	0.0000

Date: 29/8/1994

Other Currencies

Currency	Bid	Offer
Bahraini Dinar	1.8350	1.8550
Lebanese Lira	0.040650	0.041950
Saudi Riyal	0.1854	0.1872
Kuwaiti Dinar	2.3100	2.3450
Qatari Riyal	0.1910	0.1935
Egyptian Pound	0.2000	0.2150
Omani Riyal	1.8000	1.8200
UAE Dirham	0.1890	0.1919
Greek Drachma	0.2775	0.2825
Cypriot Pound	1.3975	1.5150

Date: 29/8/1994

England's Sunday shoppers go legal

LONDON (R) — People in England and Wales could shop Sunday with a clear conscience after a new law made Sunday trading legal for the first time.

For most stores the only change from last week was that they could forget the nagging fines they faced for opening illegally. Extra profits far outweighed the modest penalties.

But Marks and Spencers, a quality food and clothing chain seen as an icon of middle-class Britain, opened Sunday for the first time after staunchly refusing to break the law.

The Sunday trading act, repealing 1,000 years of tradition when it came into force last week, bowed to reality and allowed large stores to open for six hours on the Christian day of rest, while small shops may now trade as long as they want.

Before the change, already introduced in Scotland, a bizarre collection of laws and exceptions meant some luxury items could be sold on a Sunday whereas most essentials could not.

Shop workers' unions said they would make sure employers stick to promises concerning Sunday working conditions.

The "keep Sunday special" pressure group rued the move which erodes the special, tranquil character of the sabbath.

Saudi private sector exports rise 11 per cent

MANAMA (R) — Saudi Arabia's private sector exports rose 11 per cent in 1993 to five billion rivals (\$1.3 billion) from 4.5 billion (\$1.2 billion) in the previous year, according to an official study.

The Jeddah-based Arab News daily Sunday quoted study by the Saudi Export Promotion Centre as saying 47 per cent of the private sector's exports went to Bahrain, Kuwait, Qatar, Oman and the United Arab Emirates — Saudi Arabia's partners in the six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council.

The study said 25 per cent of exports went to other Arab and Islamic states, 14 per cent to Asian countries and nine per cent to the European Union.

Oil shipped by the state accounts for the vast bulk of Saudi Arabia's exports.

Egyptians eager to warm trade relations with Israel

TEL AVIV (R) — Egyptian industrialists visiting Israel said Sunday that Egypt was racing to end 16 years of "cold peace" and forge strong trade ties with Israel now that Middle East negotiations with other Arab states were advancing.

"We are not late, we are just in time, as the Japanese say," said Mohammad Farid Khamis, leading 25 members of the Egyptian Federation of Industries on a first official visit to Israel.

"We have picked in my judgment the best time to come. We were waiting for a real, comprehensive peace (with other Arabs)," he added.

Although Egypt and Israel signed peace in 1979, Cairo kept contacts in all fields to a minimum to fend off domestic criticism and regain centre stage in Arab diplomacy.

But the "cold peace" began to thaw when Labour Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin came to power in 1992, and warmed further when Egypt not involved in Israel's peace process with the Palestinians.

Now businessmen from both sides want to use political good will to roll back the inertia in their trade ties. Apart from sales of Egyptian oil specified in the Camp David agreement, bilateral trade totalled a meagre \$14 million in 1993.

"If we move now, we can achieve a lot before we even start with other Arab countries," said Dan Propper, president of the Manufacturers Association of Israel.

"What we could have done 10 years ago, we must now do in a very short time. In five years' you won't be able to notice the difference (of the delay)," he added.

Businessmen say the two economies dovetail well.

Egypt's 58 million people represent a sizeable consumer market on Israel's doorstep. Israeli irrigation could boost semi-arid agriculture in Egypt, a key development goal, while hi-tech industries could provide machinery and components for Egyptian counterparts.

Thriving Egyptian industries like textiles and foodstuffs could find ready markets in Israel, Mr. Propper said.

Mr. Khamis, whom Egyptian businessmen say has the ear of President Hosni Mubarak, said both sides would like to move beyond trade to consider joint projects and investment.

Israel and Egypt are discussing a pipeline to supply Egyptian gas to Israel and the Palestinian autonomy areas. Oil analysts say a project to refine 100,000 barrels of crude oil a day at a plant on Egypt's Mediterranean coast is believed to have some private Israeli backers.

Egypt is expanding its border crossing at Taba to make it easily accessible to tourists, Egyptian officials say.

Mr. Khamis said Egyptian exporters were currently hampered by licence and visa requirements.

Mr. Propper, who visited Cairo earlier this year, said his organisation would lobby the Israeli government for a special trade agreement to lower entry barriers.

Survey shows riskiest, safest world states for doing business

ALGERIA is the most dangerous place in the world in which to do business, while Syria, Botswana, Malaysia, Singapore and Switzerland are among the safest, according to a survey of international security risks.

The North African country, where Islamic extremists are pursuing a campaign of sabotage against foreign businesses, particularly oil and gas installations, is rated as "high risk".

The Control Risks Group (CRG) is a consultancy which advises businesses on how to assess and manage security in volatile countries and markets. It considers a country to be high risk if conditions

verge on war or civil war, if law and order are in imminent danger of breaking down, or if there is a sustained campaign specifically directed against the personnel and property of foreign businesses.

The United Kingdom, where bombs have exploded in the City, is rated as medium risk — on a level with Bangladesh, North Korea and the Philippines — where the government's authority is either challenged by internal unrest or terrorist violence. France, Germany, Poland and Hungary are considered low risk.

In Algeria, about 10,000 people have died in political

violence, and in the past ten months 53 foreigners have been killed, 14 of them during a four-day period at the beginning of July.

Christopher Grose, managing director of CRG, said: "The outlook is bleak because foreigners are being specifically targeted. A lot of the oil companies working in the south have had to build security measures into their budgets."

He said another country rated as high risk is Angola. There, UNITA rebels refuse to recognise the legitimacy of the government. Outside Luanda and the Cabinda enclave, doing business is rated as "hazardous".

Mr. Grose, whose company provides security advice for large finance companies and oil, gas and mining firms, said: "Companies are increasingly taking steps to ascertain the risks in going into emerging markets. Our advice is not whether they should go there, but how they can minimise the risk to staff if they need to work there."

Cambodia is classed as high risk because of Khmer Rouge clashes with the military and banditry in rural areas. Phnom Penh, where rising crime and car hold-ups are a problem, is classed as medium risk.

In addition, Mr. Grose says that foreign executives working in Russia are increasingly facing high crime levels, especially in Moscow and St. Petersburg.

CRG rates the whole country as medium risk because of the continued political instability, growing organised criminal violence and extortion, kidnapping and counterfeiting. In the first five months of this year, 65 foreigners were killed.

Mr. Grose said: "Companies moving into Russia will probably encounter an extortion attempt, sometimes very serious, sometimes not, because they are seen as wealthy."

"An American businessman, Mark Aulov, was abducted in March and his body found four months later after he was believed to have fallen foul of the local Mafia."

Other countries, once notorious for political violence, are becoming easier to work in. In Peru there were 207 attacks between January and May this year compared with 692 for the same period last year.

"The decline in the strength of the ultra-leftist Sendero Luminoso (Shining Path) has followed the arrest of Abimael Guzman, its leader and founder, in September 1992," Mr. Grose said. "Thousands of companies operate in Russia and Peru as well as in Algeria. We never say business is impossible, provided companies are adaptable and put security into their overall budget."

Philippines to implement VAT law on Oct. 1

MANILA (R) — The Philippines will begin implementing a controversial law extending its value-added tax (VAT) to a wide range of goods and services from Oct. 1, Finance Secretary Roberto de Ocampo has said.

He said extending the tax would allow the country to move forward at a time when the economy was poised for rapid growth.

The 10 per cent tax will cover products ranging from food and clothing to books, newspapers and services. The government is ready to implement the new law even though opponents have vowed to step up pressure on congress to repeal it.

The supreme court has ruled 9-6 in favour of the VAT.

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Traditional performers bring Commonwealth Games to end

VICTORIA, British Columbia (AP) — The XV Commonwealth Games came to a colourful, multi-cultural and sometimes rowdy conclusion Sunday evening before a capacity crowd under threatening skies at Centennial Stadium.

Prince Edward, president of the Commonwealth Games Federation declared the games officially concluded at the end of the two-hour ceremony, which featured performances by singers and dancers from 14 of the 64 nations that participated in the 10 days of competition.

"No, no," hundreds in the crowd of more than 33,000 shouted as Sonny de O Sales, president of the Commonwealth Games Federation, called on the prince to declare the games over.

"Let's do it again," someone yelled.

Some of the boisterous competitors tossed wads of paper, and one seat cushion, at the prince as he left the stadium in the same open 1939 Buick that brought his mother, Queen Elizabeth II, into the opening ceremony Aug. 18.

Thousands of athletes and games volunteers poured onto the field as the ceremony concluded, dancing and waving to the crowd.

In declaring the games concluded, the prince called on the members of the Commonwealth to again assemble in four years in the XVI Commonwealth Games in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, for a friendly competition "For the good of humanity and the peace of the world."

Rain fell just before the ceremony began but held off throughout the performances after most of the games were completed in sunshine.

A large share of the 3,350 athletes who took part in the games watched the ceremony. Occasionally groups of athletes would exchange friendly battles with wads of paper and, in the middle of a production number, a New Zealand competitor rode into the centre of the field on a small bicycle, much to the surprise and consternation of the show's producers.

Representatives of each of the 64 nations marched around the track. Among them, the subdued repre-

sentatives of Hong Kong, making their final games appearance, Hong Kong will be ceded to China by Britain in 1997, one year before the next games.

More exuberant were the representatives of South Africa, which returned to the games for the first time since 1958, when the nation was banned because of its racist policies.

Now that the country is integrated, it was warmly welcomed back, receiving a standing ovation from the crowd at the opening ceremony.

Wheelchair-bound performers and young people, all decorated as birds, took part in "healing journey," a tribute to the disabled athletes who participated in the games as official members of their teams for the first time.

The Commonwealth flag was lowered and presented to the mayor of Victoria, who was instructed to take it to Malaysia in 1998.

Among those honoured were the more than 14,000 volunteers who helped put on a competition roundly considered a success. Earlier in the day, officials said the games were sure to break even financially.

Member of Vancouver Island's native coast Salish nation chanted a traditional farewell as the prince departed.

Moneghetti wins marathon

Earlier Sunday, Australia's Steve Moneghetti won the marathon at the games after two near misses Sunday but countrywoman Cathy Freeman was denied a third gold by a disqualification.

The games also were rocked by a third drugs scandal when Horace Dove-Edwin, runner-up to Linford Christie in the 100 metres, tested positive for steroids.

After Gbanaian boxer Godson Sawah had been stripped of his bronze medal and burglar Robert Foster had been sent home, the Sierra Leone sprinter was disqualified and had his silver medal nullified.

Jamaica's third place finisher Michael Green was moved up to silver and Namibia's 200m titlist Frankie Fredericks, who placed fourth, was awarded the bronze.

"It's a very sad event, a very tragic event, that someone who had been a hero in the early days of the games is now found to be a drugs offender," David Dixon, secretary of the Commonwealth Games Federation said.

He said Dove-Edwin, 27, also is banned from competing at the next games at Kuala Lumpur and faces possible further punishment from track's world governing body, the IAAF.

Moneghetti, who won a bronze in 1986 and silver in 1990 finally made it to gold in 1994, finishing in 2 hours, 11 minutes 49 seconds on the streets of Victoria to win the marathon.

"I told people I want the setting reversed, and today I got it," the 31-year-old Australian said. "I showed that by running a good," tough race.

Moneghetti, who won this year's Tokyo Marathon with a career-best 2:08:55, finished more than three minutes ahead of teammate Sean Quilty.

Running his 12th marathon and wearing his distinctive dark sunglasses despite heavy rain, Moneghetti was among the leaders from the outset. Kenyan Nicolas Kioki stayed with him until 35k, before the experienced Aussie began pulling away. Kioki wound up sixth.

Quilty overtook England's Mark Hudspeth in the final kilometre and finished second at 2:14:57. Hudspeth settled for the bronze medal with a time of 2:15:11.

In the final leg of the women's 1,600 relay, 400-metre winner Freeman took over in second place and shadowed England's Sally Gunwell, Olympic, world and Commonwealth 400 hurdles finalist, over the final lap.

When the hurdles world record holder made her move, Freeman, covered it and overtook her in the last 20 metres as the Australians posted what would have been a games record 3:26:84.

Games medals table

VICTORIA (AP) Final Commonwealth Games medals table after Sunday's events:

	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
Australia	87	52	43	182
Canada	40	42	46	128
England	31	45	49	125
Nigeria	11	13	13	37
Kenya	7	4	8	19
India	6	11	7	24
Scotland	6	3	11	20
New Zealand	5	16	20	41
Wales	5	8	6	19
Northern Ireland	5	2	3	10
Namru	3	0	0	3
South Africa	2	4	5	11
Jamaica	2	4	2	8
Zimbabwe	0	3	3	6
Malaysia	2	3	2	7
Cyprus	2	1	2	5
Sri Lanka	1	2	0	3
Zambia	1	1	2	4
Namibia	1	0	1	2
Papua New Guinea	0	1	0	1
Western Samoa	0	1	0	1
Hong Kong	0	0	4	4
Pakistan	0	0	3	3
Trinidad-Tobago	0	0	2	2
Uganda	0	0	2	2
Bermuda	0	0	1	1
Botswana	0	0	1	1
Ghana	0	0	1	1
Guersey	0	0	1	1
Norfolk Island	0	0	1	1
Seychelles	0	0	1	1
Tanzania	0	0	1	1
Tonga	0	0	1	1



Brazilian Flavio Padaratz, no. 9 in the world, makes a roller re-entry, during the final of the Rip-Curl Pro Landes

Sunday in Hamegor, France which he won ahead of U.S. Kelly Slater (AFP photo)

England offers U.S. cash for own head

LONDON (AP) — The English Football Association (FA) Monday offered the U.S. soccer team a 25,000-pound (\$37,500) reward for beating England in their friendly match at Wembley next week.

The unprecedented move came as the FA said it wanted to ensure a competitive match as England begins its preparations for the 1996 European Championships.

Alexi Lalas, one of the forces behind the Americans' drive into the second round of the World Cup this summer, said he doesn't think a cash incentive is needed, but insisted his team can take the money and run.

"We've beaten England before and we can do it again," Lalas said. "Wembley will make it tougher but all the sweeter if we succeed."

The 24-year-old defender, now playing for Italian first division club Padova, scored in the Americans' 2-0 win over England in the U.S. Cup in Boston last year. It was one of the most embarrassing

results in English soccer's proud history.

"That game in Boston was a real turning point for the U.N. side," Lalas said. "It gave us a lot of belief in ourselves, and it was a big game for me on a personal level because it established me in the team."

"Now we're older, we've gained a lot more experience and we have a successful World Cup under our belts. Everyone is taking us seriously now."

The Oct. 7 match will mark the first time the United States has played on the famed "hallowed turf" of Wembley Stadium. It will also be the first time England has put up money for an international friendly.

"We have no competitive matches for the next two years and this was the FA's idea to put a bit of an edge to the game," FA spokesman David Bloomfield said.

As the host nation for the 1996 Europeans, England is exempt the 16-month ordeal of qualifying.

Indurain said to fail dope test in France

PARIS (AP) — Four-time Tour de France champion Miguel Indurain's looming assault on the one-hour cycling record was overshadowed Monday by suspicion that he used a French-restricted drug in a race in May.

But though the drug, Salbutamol, is accepted by the sport's governing body because of its therapeutic value, if not taken in great amounts, "Ventoline" is allowed.

But the French Cycling Federation medical commission, whose rules do not always conform with the union, issues verdicts on the drug case-by-case. Indurain has been refused.

The cycling union's list of banned drugs is the same as that of the International Olympic Committee, which is meeting in Paris this week.

"The International Olympic Committee (IOC) supports Indurain and the UCI in this affair," said Prince Alexandre de Merode, president of the IOC medical commission.

"The rules of the UCI are reasonable and clear," the prince said. "For us, he is not positive, an athlete has the right, like everyone, to care for himself."

A French commission is expected to meet Sept. 6 to decide whether any penalties or suspensions are warranted.

Indurain's Tour de France titles would not be affected by the ruling. He passed all the drug tests during the 23-day race in July.

French rider Laurent Madouas tested positive for Salbutamol in February. He was given a never-implemented one-month suspension after informing doctors he had a prescription in Italy.

Morceli misses out on 5,000 metres record

RIETI, Italy (R) — Algerian Noureddine Morceli, bidding to shatter a world record in this Italian town for the third straight year, failed in his assault on the 5,000 metre mark late Sunday.

Morceli had his sights fixed on the time of 12 minutes 56.96 seconds set by Ethiopian Haile Gebresilasie earlier this year but ended up almost 11 seconds outside that time, clocking 13:07.88 on a hot, late summer afternoon.

American sprinter Jon Drummond equalled his personal best of 9.99 seconds to hand British world, Olympic and European champion Linford Christie a rare defeat.

Kenyan Benson Koech, 19, demonstrated his potential by clocking the best 800 metres time of the year — one minute 43.17 seconds — as he beat compatriot and Olympic champion William Tanni into second place.

But Morceli, 24, was the man everyone had come to see at the annual international meeting in this town in the hills some 80 km (50 miles) north of Rome.

Morceli, world record holder in the 1,500 metres, mile

and 3,000 metres, could not add to his collection despite a storming start.

He was more than four seconds ahead of Gebresilasie's time at the 2,000 metres mark but the record began to slip away from that point.

Morceli clocked 7:50.02 at 3,000 metres — still just up on the Ethiopian's pace when he set the record in the Dutch town of Hengelo — but below his target of 7:45.

"After 3,000 metres I got stomach ache and my throat was very dry. It was very hot," said Morceli after a race run in a temperature of 25 degrees Celsius.

"There's plenty of time to take the record. I'm only 24 and I think that (Moroccan Said) Aouita was 27 when he set his 5,000 metre record," added Morceli, who said he might attack the mark again in Spain next month.

Aouita held the record from 1987 until Gebresilasie broke it in June.

The Algerian smashed Aouita's seven-year-old world 1,500 metres record here in 1992 and took Englishman Steve Cram's mile record, set in 1985, at Rieti last September.

Gullit scores as Milan win 3rd Supercup

EUROPEAN SOCCER ROUNDUP

Agencies

RUUD Gullit scored a late goal against his former club Sampdoria as AC Milan came back from seeming defeat to clinch their third successive Italian Supercup in a penalty shootout late Sunday.

Gullit, cast aside by AC Milan only to be bought back after one highly successful season at Sampdoria, snatched an equaliser with eight minutes left of normal time in the traditional curtain-raiser to the Italian soccer season between champions and cup winners.

Until his timely intervention with a closer-range header, Sampdoria dominated the match at the San Siro and looked to be about to end Milan's monopoly of the trophy.

But the champions clinched victory 4-3 on penalties after Sebastiano Rossi saved from Alberigo Evani and then Sinisa Mihajlovic blasted over the bar.

Mihajlovic had given Sampdoria the lead in the 35th minute with a curling 25-metre free kick which just escaped the goalkeeper's despairing dive.

A few minutes earlier Rossi had parried a dipping free kick from the former Red Star Belgrade player. And in the 28th minute he saved a fierce shot from Attilio Lombardo.

Milan, missing Italy's Paolo Maldini, Frenchman Marcel Desailly and playmaker Dejan Savicevic, all injured, looked a shadow of the side which has dominated the last three editions of the league championships.

Sampdoria should have sealed the match in the 75th minute when Lombardo dribbled past Franco Baresi only for Rossi to keep out his shot with a fine reflex save.

Then, with eight minutes remaining and Sampdoria trailing, Marco Simone picked out Gullit with a far-post cross for the Dutchman to mark his return to the San Siro in the style that made Milan buy him back.

Sampdoria's performance will raise the hopes, however, of first division clubs hoping to deny the reigning league champions their fourth successive title when the season starts next Sunday.

Elsewhere, unbeaten Borussia Dortmund took the solo lead of the German

league while Nantes faltered at the top in France.

The big guns in the Netherlands opened the season in defiant style, with old rivals Ajax Amsterdam and PSV Eindhoven winning their first games and scoring seven goals between them.

In Germany Borussia maintained their 100 per cent early season record, beating Kaiserslautern 2-1 as rivals Stuttgart faltered at home to Cologne, drawing 1-1 and sliding into fourth place.

Karlsruhe, following their 4-1 destruction of Duisburg, were in second place with Werder Bremen third on goal difference after demolishing Bochum 3-0. Midfielder Baster scored all three.

Borussia played Friday and led 1-0 at half-time with a goal from their Swiss goal ace Stephan Chapuisat in the 40th minute. Michael Zorc added the second from a 74th minute penalty and Kuntz got the consolation goal for Kaiserslautern with eight minutes to go.

New look Bayern Munich, under Italian maestro Giovanni Trapattoni, went some way towards making amends for their shocking 5-1 by Freiburg in midweek when French star Jean-Pierre Papin was sent off.

They thrashed Borussia Moenchengladbach 3-0 in



VFB Stuttgart's Ludwing Kogel (left) and Rico Steinmann of FC Cologne fight for the ball during their German Bundesliga match at Stuttgart's Daimler Stadium Saturday. The two tied 2-2 (AFP photo)

front of a 57,000 home crowd. Kreuzer (22), Nerlinger (33), and Matthaus (86) got the goals.

For Karlsruhe Tarnat scored two and Knap and Wueck added the other in the 4-1 win over Duisburg, for whom Koezle pulled one

back.

Bayern Leverkusen, who lost both their opening games, came bouncing back with a 4-0 crushing of Eintracht Frankfurt. Rejuvenated World Cup star Rudy Voeller, on his return from Marseille, scored with his head after coming on as a substitute with 73 minutes gone.

In France Cannes stepped up the pressure on Nantes, inflicting a rare home defeat on Bordeaux to move within one point of the league leaders.

Cannes, flush with confidence after their 5-1 win against Lyon last week, (5-1), unsettled the reshuffled Bordeaux defence from early in the game.

They got their reward with a goal from Delmotte on a swift counter-attack in the 40th minute. After the break they consolidated the lead with a penalty from Durix after Delmotte was brought down in the area.

Bordeaux, facing their first home defeat of the season, had their chance to pull one back, but Bixente Lizarazu missed the spot kick after a foul on Fournier.

Every point counts at this stage of the season with only five points separating the top eight teams. But Nantes settled for a 2-2 draw at Montpellier with Pedros scoring both goals after Rizzetto had put the home side ahead. Divert scored the equaliser with eight minutes to go.

St. Etienne, top scorers in the league, steamrolled Le Havre 4-1 with a hat-trick from Laurent Blanc keeping them in contention in third place in the league.

Lens, in fourth place, were held 1-1 at Nice and Lyon, bouncing back from that embarrassing thrashing by Cannes, held Auxerre to a goalless draw.

Paris St. Germain won the glamour fixture of the day, edging out Monaco 1-0 with a goal from Weah in the 52nd minute.

Cen were celebrating too. They won for the first time this season, 2-0 at home to Metz with two first half goals from Simba.

In the Netherlands unfashionable Heerenveen scored the first goals of the season, beating Groningen 2-0 in Friday's opener.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

20 in hospital after Greek fans riot

ATHENS (R) — A police officer and a spectator were in hospital with serious head injuries after rioting by soccer fans on the opening day of the Greek season Sunday. Another two of Drama after rival fans hurled stones at each other during a match between Olympiakos and local team Doka. Police said the fighting continued after the end of the match in the streets around the stadium as fans clashed with riot police. Parked cars were damaged and shop windows smashed. Olympiakos won the match 1-0.

De Merode denies LA cover-up

PARIS (AFP) — International Olympic Committee (IOC) drugs chief Prince Alexandre de Merode denied Monday newspaper allegations that there was a cover-up at the 1984 Los Angeles Olympics. "Test findings from the last day were, indeed, destroyed before we could examine them," the IOC medical commission president said. "But it was certainly not a deliberate cover-up attempt. The results of five positive drugs tests were removed from the commission room the day after the closing ceremony and shredded by cleaners. There was nothing we could do about it but I'm convinced it was a simple accident." He said that the five competitors from the last day athletic finals, which included the men's 1,500m, may have escaped a ban. "But they may well have been able to explain why prohibited substances had been found. A positive test does not automatically mean someone is guilty," de Merode said. British newspaper and television reports had said the results of nine positive tests had been shredded but claims that the Los Angeles laboratory was instructed to stop testing were later denied by the lab chief.

Marathon obstructed by Bosnian flare-up

ATHENS, Greece (AP) — Organisers have postponed a 10,000-kilometre (6,000-mile) run from ancient Olympia to Sarajevo which was aimed at uniting the former Yugoslavia's warring peoples, because of the ongoing hostilities in Bosnia-Herzegovina. "The ultra marathon starts tomorrow. But there will be difficulties in its finish," Paul Anastasi, one of the organisers, said Monday. "The United Nations has said that it cannot guarantee the safety of runners in Bosnia," he told a news conference. About 50 runners, headed by Holland's 1982 European marathon champion, Gerhard Nijboer, will start out from ancient Olympia for the all-marble Olympic Stadium in Athens, where the modern Olympics were born in 1896, said Anastasi. Maratons, another organiser. This is a distance of 332 kilometres (200 miles).

Atletico buys Colombian striker Valencia

MADRID, Spain (AP) — Atletico de Madrid's Colombian coach Francisco Maturana is counting on the scoring skills of fellow countryman Adolfo Valencia who was presented Monday as the club's new striker. The 26-year-old forward was signed from Germany's Bayern Munich this weekend for three seasons. No details of the transfer were released but news reports said the German club was paid 375 million pesetas (\$2.8 million). The striker, who scored two goals for Colombia in the World Cup this summer in the United States, is nicknamed "the train" because of his speed and force of his attacking moves.

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♦ 9 8 6 2 ♦ 7 4
SOUTH
♠ A K Q J 9
♥ A 6 4
♦ A 6 5 3
♣ A
The bidding: North 1, South 2, North 3, South 4, North 5, South 6, North 7, South 8, North 9, South 10, North 11, South 12, North 13, South 14, North 15, South 16, North 17, South 18, North 19, South 20, North 21, South 22, North 23, South 24, North 25, South 26, North 27, South 28, North 29, South 30, North 31, South 32, North 33, South 34, North 35, South 36, North 37, South 38, North 39, South 40, North 41, South 42, North 43, South 44, North 45, South 46, North 47, South 48, North 49, South 50, North 51, South 52, North 53, South 54, North 55, South 56, North 57, South 58, North 59, South 60, North 61, South 62, North 63, South 64, North 65, South 66, North 67, South 68, North 69, South 70, North 71, South 72, North 73, South 74, North 75, South 76, North 77, South 78, North 79, South 80, North 81, South 82, North 83, South 84, North 85, South 86, North 87, South 88, North 89, South 90, North 91, South 92, North 93, South 94, North 95, South 96, North 97, South 98, North 99, South 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NEWS IN BRIEF

Fifteen more die in Indian Kashmir

SRINAGAR, India (AFP) — Indian troops shot dead 13 Muslim militants and two civilians were killed in separate incidents in a renewed flare-up of separatist violence in Kashmir, police and army officials said Monday. The guerrillas' death sparked a protest strike near the site of a gunbattle between the soldiers and the Kashmiri separatists, police said in Srinagar, the turbulent state's summer capital. Army troops raided the village of Shirapur in northern Baramulla district on Sunday to flush out Muslim guerrillas sheltering there. A fierce gunbattle followed. Nine guerrillas of the Hizbul Mujahideen separatist group were killed and soldiers found a machinegun, rocket launchers, assault rifles and ammunition. Villagers staged a protest strike on Monday saying the soldiers dressed in civilian clothes for the Shirapur raid, had stolen valuables and molested women before killing the Hizbul Mujahideen fighters. Witnesses said the protests spread to several other villages in the area. Four other Muslim guerrillas were shot in separate gunbattles elsewhere in the northern state, a defence ministry spokesman said. Two civilians were also killed. Almost 10,000 people have died in India's only Muslim-majority state since 1989 when Muslim-led insurgency took hold in the partitioned Himalayan province bordering Pakistan. India holds the southern two-thirds of the state.

Eight killed as rival Kurds battle

ERBIL, Iraq (AFP) — Eight people have been killed in further clashes between rival Kurdish groups in Iraqi Kurdistan despite a ceasefire call from their leaders, officials said here Monday. "There is still heavy fighting," said Ganeem Jawad, an official from the Iraqi National Council (INC), a coalition opposed to Iraqi President Saddam Hussein. It includes the two main feuding Kurdish groups — Massuni Barzani's Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) and Jalal Talabani's Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK). Eight more people — five militants and three civilians — were reported killed with many others wounded in the area of Qala Diza near the Iranian border, he said. Messrs Barzani and Talabani called on their followers on Thursday to stop the fighting, in which at least 350 people, mostly PUK members, have died this month, according to Kurdish officials.

Iraqi invasion officially stopped — Kuwait

KUWAIT (AP) — Infiltration from Iraq has virtually stopped since Kuwait dug a defensive trench along the disputed border. Under this year, the Al Watan daily reported Monday. It quoted the interior minister, Sheikh Ali Al Sabah, as saying that before the trench was completed, security forces were arresting between 19 to 25 infiltrators a month. Now it is one or two every four months. Sheikh Ali did not give the nationalities of the infiltrators, but Iraqi guards have told the Associated Press that they are Iraqi as well as workers from Asian and African countries who claim they were not making enough money to buy food in Iraq. The 210-kilometre trench is three metres deep and five metres wide. It can be climbed with difficulty, but it is mainly designed to halt vehicles. Sheikh Ali said the number of infiltrators was "normal" and did not "indicate any danger." More than three years after a U.S.-led coalition liberated Kuwait from a seven-month Iraqi occupation, the oil-rich emirate still fears further aggression from Iraq.

Floods and storms kill 87

ADDIS ABABA (AFP) — Violent storms and flooding killed 87 people and left more than 6,000 others homeless in Ethiopia last week, state-run radio reported Monday. Three people were swept away by floodwaters in the capital Addis Ababa on Friday when torrential rain caused streams that cross the city to burst their banks, destroying about the homes of some 3,000 people. The storm also seriously damaged one of the city's two main hospitals, Zewditu Hospital, and Ethiopian Red Cross workers evacuated about 20 critically ill patients, the radio said. The radio added that rain and hailstorm also swept across the northern Woleja region of the country, where 84 people drowned in flooding and almost 6,000 head of cattle were lost. About 3,240 people in Woleja province were left homeless and 240 hectares of cultivated land were devastated, the radio said.

Oman cracks Islamic militant network

MUSCAT (AFP) — Oman said Sunday it had dismantled a network of foreign-sponsored Islamic militants — the first in the country. The official Omani news agency ONA said the militants were linked to "foreign parties, financially and for their organisation." ONA did not name the foreign parties involved. The agency said security forces had arrested "more than 200 people who made up this underground network" over the past few weeks. It accused them of "using the Muslim faith as a smokescreen to sow sedition in Oman Muslim society and undermine national unity." On Saturday, Western diplomats in Muscat said more than 200 Islamic activists had been detained in an unprecedented crackdown launched in May and which was still going on. The diplomats said those arrested included politicians, soldiers, university lecturers and students. Some were released after being questioned, the sources said.

Egyptian minister appeals court ruling

CAIRO (AFP) — Egypt's education minister has appealed against a court ruling on the wearing of veils that blocked government attempts to curb Islamic influence in schools. In his appeal presented at the higher administrative court Sunday Hussein Kamel Bahaa Al Din argued that the law gave him authority over all matters concerning pupils and school life. The court decided to give its verdict on the appeal from Sept. 4. The Cairo administrative court on Tuesday ordered the suspension of a ministerial decree prohibiting girls from wearing the Islamic veil to school without written permission from their parents. On Friday, Mr. Bahaa Al Din told the opposition Islamic paper Al Shaab "the ruling is binding and it must be implemented. If the law gives us the right to appeal, then we will appeal." The court said the school uniform was a "general freedom" that the Egyptian constitution protects. It also said the minister went beyond his powers by issuing a decree that could only be passed by parliament.

UAE police condemn Indians for retrial

DUBAI (AP) — United Arab Emirates (UAE) court has asked police to arrest six Indians for retrial for blasphemy over a cartoon that featured ants eating the bodies of the Prophet Mohammed and Jesus Christ, a local newspaper said Monday. The cartoon had been already been in jail for two years for violating the play in a country that forbids anyone taking part in, or approving of, anything derogatory to religion. The English-language Khaleej Times quoted officials as saying police in the UAE emirates of Sharjah, where the play was staged had been asked to arrest the cartoonists on bail terms in 1992 then set free on appeal. The newspaper reported officials as saying two of the cartoonists were still in the UAE as their passports had been confiscated from them after they were set free. The six were among 11 Indian men convicted of blasphemy in 1992 over an amateur play called "Corpses of the Ancestors" performed in the southern Indian Malayalam language, which also depicted ants eating the body of Karl Marx, the father of communism.

S. Arabia boycotts Cairo conference

CAIRO (Agencies) — Saudi Arabia will not attend the UN conference on population and development, which is due to be held here early next month amid a hot controversy in the Muslim world, the organisers said Sunday. "The Saudis officially announced today that they are not coming," UN spokeswoman Van Kampen told AFP. She said she did not know the reasons. A Saudi embassy official in Cairo said he was unaware of any such decision.

An Egyptian foreign ministry spokesman also said Egypt had not been advised, but pointed out that the UN were usually informed first. Saudi Arabia, one of the strictest countries in implementing Islamic law, is the first state to announce it will not be attending the conference.

Meanwhile, the head of the Organisation of Islamic Conference demanded that the draft resolutions for the conference be revised and brought into line with Islamic law.

Hamid Al Ghabidi, secretary general of the Jeddah-based OIC, told the English-language Tebran Times that at least "three major aspects of the resolutions are contrary to sharia," Islamic law, including the right to have an abortion.

The other two were liberalising pre-marital relations and giving children "unlimited freedom to resist parental pressure," he was quoted as saying.

"For these reasons, all Muslim countries believe that the anti-Muslim provisions should be omitted from the population draft," he said.

Mr. Ghabidi, who was in Iran to attend a seminar on Bosnia, however urged Islamic countries to participate in the population conference so they can amend the resolutions.

Iranian Health Minister Alireza Marandi said on Sunday that Iran would take part in the conference to make its position known and make suggestions for correcting parts of the draft plan.

He said parts of the action plan on population control were "completely vague and contained double-meanings" and had to be rectified.

The authors of the document were "mainly Westerners and Western-educated people whose moral ideas differed" with those held in Islamic Iran, he said.

In Warsaw, Polish President Lech Walesa has criticised the U.N. document's stand on abortion as simplistic and short on ethical values.

"Such delicate matters as the passing-down of life and the family as well as society's moral and material development have been dealt with in a simplistic and superficial manner," Mr. Walesa said in a letter to conference participants.

"I was filled with true alarm by the document's tendency to regard abortion as a method of controlling population growth and the proposal to have it recognised as such worldwide without any limitations."

"I was surprised that such an august circle of U.N. experts and scholars... should give precedence to practical considerations over ethical ones," Mr. Walesa said.

He warned this would create a generation of "insensitive people indifferent to the values that constitute the essence of humanity."

Mr. Walesa's letter was in response to an 118-page draft final report which will be discussed at the Cairo conference.

Poverty results not only from overpopulation but also from unjust social relations, ethnic struggle, economic mismanagement and excessive arms spending, Mr. Walesa said.

"I speak out as someone who has spent years fighting for human rights and freedoms," wrote the former Solidarity trade union leader, a devout Catholic and father of eight.

"Among them is every human being's right to life which cannot be overshadowed by other benefits, especially economic issues."

Iraq says embargo in 'last days'

NICOSIA, Cyprus (AP) — Iraq's Al Thawra daily, mouthpiece of the ruling Baath Party, said Monday that the U.N. trade embargo imposed four years ago is "in its last days" amid an intensifying diplomatic campaign to make the crippling sanctions lifted.

But Kuwait and other Gulf states were reported to be pressing the U.N. Security Council not to staff a test period for the monitoring of Iraq's weapons programmes, which could improve prospects for easing the four-year-old embargo as early as next year, until Baghdad formally recognises Kuwait's sovereignty.

The official Iraqi news agency, monitored in Nicosia, quotes Al Thawra as saying that the visit to Iraq of a Turkish commercial delegation to discuss resuming business signals that support for the embargo is crumbling.

It asserted that Turkish Prime Minister Tansu Ciller's recent declaration that the border with Iraq, closed since 1990, will soon reopen for trade was "a step that means in practice a partial break in the sanctions."

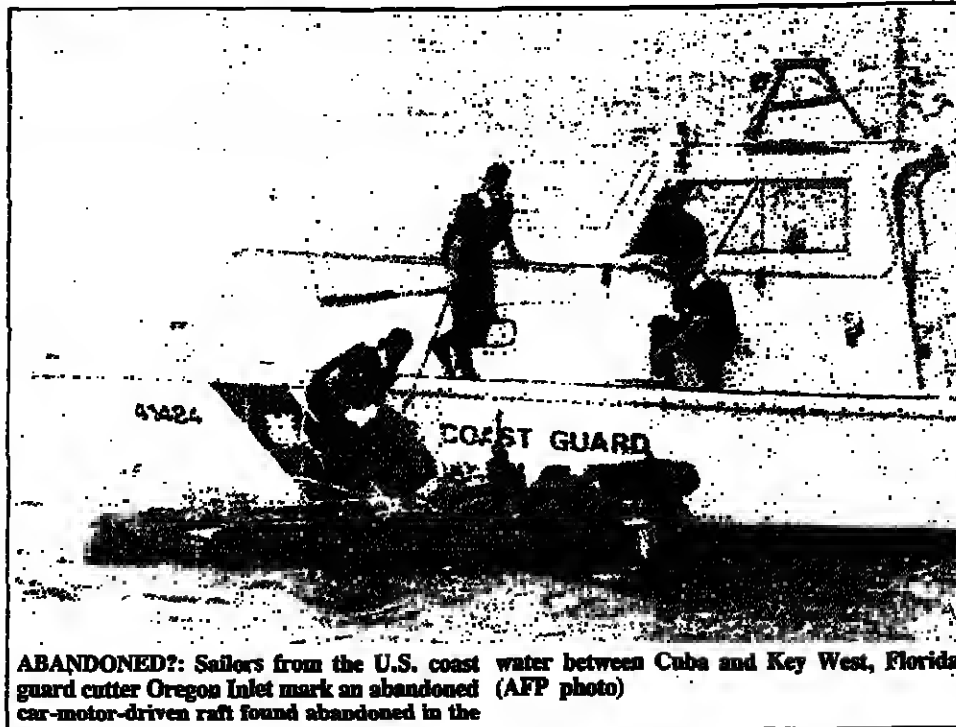
The newspaper noted that Turkey, Iraq's northern neighbour and a major trading partner before the sanctions were imposed after Iraq invaded Kuwait in August 1990, "is not alone in this position."

"Other states, including Russia, have made it clear that their interests are being threatened as a result of the embargo," Al Thawra said.

Turkey, gripped by economic crisis, claims it has lost \$20 billion because of the sanctions and has been bolstering its relations with Baghdad in recent months.

The Al Thawra report was likely aimed primarily at boosting the morale of Iraq's 18 million people, who are enduring severe hardship because of the sanctions. But it came amid intensifying diplomatic activity over the embargo.

Three of the five permanent members of the Security Council — Russia, China and France — have been urging a softer line on Iraq now that it is complying with U.N. resolutions on dismantling its weapons of mass destruction and permitting long-term



ABANDONED?: Sailors from the U.S. coast water between Cuba and Key West, Florida guard cutter Oregon Inlet mark an abandoned (AFP photo) car-motor-driven raft found abandoned in the

Ghali urges development of West Bank, Gaza

GENEVA (R) — United Nations Secretary General Boutros Ghali said on Monday that economic and social development of the West Bank and Gaza was the "essential base" for building peace throughout the Middle East.

He urged that empowerment arrangements that were signed yesterday between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) be implemented quickly so Palestinians in the occupied territories would enjoy full autonomy in health, education, tourism, social welfare and direct taxation.

This would be "yet another milestone" on the way to a comprehensive and lasting

peace in the region, based on Security Council resolutions 242 and 338, according to the U.N. chief.

In a message read to non-governmental organisations (NGOs), opening an annual three-day meeting in Geneva to study the question of Palestine, Mr. Boutros Ghali said the organisations' role was crucial to the future of the West Bank and Gaza.

"The peace accords have been prepared by diplomats and negotiators. It is now your special responsibility to help turn these agreements into tangible benefits for the Palestinians."

The secretary-general said: "Economic and social de-

velopment of the West Bank and Gaza is an essential basis for peace-building in the whole region."

"Without development, hopes for peace will soon turn to despair without productive, meaningful employment, the young will be restless," he added.

He noted two major projects, to clean up Gaza and to provide housing to Palestinian police, had been launched by the Palestinian Authority and the U.N. Development Programme under the overall guidance of the newly-appointed U.N. special coordinator for the occupied territories, Terje Rod Larsen.

Turkish Cypriots reject U.N. reunification proposal

NICOSIA (AP) — The parliament of the breakaway Turkish Cypriot state in northern Cyprus early Monday rejected reunifying the war-divided island in a U.N.-proposed bi-zonal federation with rival Greeks, seriously undermining efforts to end 20 years of partition.

The 30-16 vote annulled two previous parliamentary decisions in 1984 and 1985 which declared that federation was the only solution for the Cyprus problem, triggered by the 1974 Turkish invasion of east Mediterranean island.

The 50-member assembly also called for closer economic and defence integration with Turkey to counter Greek Cypriot moves for closer links with Athens, moves that make the U.N. effort immeasurably more difficult.

Hakku Aton, the breakaway state's prime minister, declared during a 12-hour debate that ended after midnight (2100 GMT Sunday): "Unless this peaceful warning is given to the Greeks who have irresponsible steps, they will continue to take further such steps."

The assembly resolution said scrapping federation as a solution was necessary because of Greek Cypriot efforts to join the European Union, a development Turkish Cypriot leader Rauf Denktaş calls a back-door move for union with Greece.

The resolution was proposed by the Democracy Party, senior partner in the north's coalition government, and the main opposition party, the National Unity Party.

The assembly's decision

was widely seen as slamming the door on a new effort by U.N. Secretary General Boutros Ghali to revive stalled reunification talks on the basis of a federal solution.

Cyprus has been cut in two since July 1974, when the Turks invaded and seized the northern one-third of the island after a short-lived coup by supporters of union with Greece.

The Turkish Cypriot parliament demanded recognition of the breakaway statelet, which was proclaimed in 1983, a move the Greek Cypriots adamantly oppose.

The United Nations deemed the northern statelet illegal when it was founded. Only Turkey recognised it.

The Foreign Cypriot vote came amid moves by the Athens and Ankara governments to formulate new strategies with the rival Cypriot communities.

Greek Foreign Minister Karolos Papoulias arrived Sunday and began talks Monday in Nicosia, the island's divided capital, with Greek Cypriot leaders on the stalled reunification effort.

He pledged that Athens will support moves for a reunited island "with all means."

"This struggle will stop only when the last occupying soldier withdraws from Cyprus and when conditions that will allow a smooth and happy life for the whole of the people of the Cyprus republic will be created," he declared.

Turkey's Foreign Minister Marmar Soyaslan is scheduled to visit the north Wednesday to consult leaders of the Turkish Cypriot minority, who

comprise about 18 per cent of the island's 700,000-strong population.

These visits stem from Dr. Boutros Ghali's request last week to all parties involved in the Cyprus problem to say whether they will accept a new round of talks on the basis of Security Council Resolution 939 of July 29.

That reaffirmed the council position that a settlement must be based on a bi-communal, bi-zonal federation with a single sovereignty, excluding any form of partition or secession.

President Glafcos Clerides, the Greek Cypriot leader, has accepted the U.N. formula. But Mr. Denktaş, president of the northern republic, rejected it and asked the Turkish Cypriot parliament to endorse his decision.

Dr. Boutros Ghali's request was also addressed to Britain, Greece and Turkey, co-signatories of a 1960 treaty guaranteeing the island's independence from Britain.

Earlier rounds of U.N.-sponsored talks have foundered because of Turkey's rejection of Security Council resolutions demanding the withdrawal of an estimated 35,000 Turkish troops and 50,000 mainland settlers from the north.

The Greek Cypriots also demand the return to the north of 200,000 of their people who fled or were driven out during the invasion. Some 40,000 Turkish Cypriots moved north at that time.

Mr. Denktaş is adamant that his breakaway state must be given international recognition. He also rejects allowing Greek Cypriot refugees to return to the north.

Bhutto cancels Gaza visit

(Continued from page 1)

said it was off.

Mr. Rabin had added: "This whole business is a storm in a teacup. We have no problem with this lady or any one of her representatives visiting the Gaza Strip."

However Communications Minister Shulamit Aloni interrupted him before reporters, saying, "Manners would allow this lady to enter Gaza."

Mr. Arafat protested Monday after the Pakistani ambassador from Tunis was prevented from entering Gaza at the Rafah crossing point on Sunday.

The PLO leader made the protests in meetings at Gaza City with Western and Chinese diplomats, a PLO official told AFP.

Pakistan's ambassador to Egypt indicated on Israeli radio that Bhutto would not visit the Strip if it meant contact with Israel.

"She will not come to Gaza

under these circumstances where our ambassador is not allowed to pass through the checkpoint without going through the Israeli authorities," ambassador Allam said from Cairo.

"We don't have relations, we don't recognise Israel. We are not visiting Israel, we are visiting Gaza."

Mr. Shaath charged Israel with a "gross violation" of the autonomy accord. "For countries with no relations with Israel, Palestinians have the right to grant visas, with security clearance from Israel," he said.

According to Mr. Shaath the Palestinians informed Israel two days earlier of the ambassador's plans and received no response.

However, Israeli negotiator General Danny Rothchild said the Palestinians first said the ambassador would arrive Saturday, later that he would probably not turn up then he arrived unex-

pectedly on Sunday.

Gen. Rothchild said Israel needed time to consider the visit and had yet to take a decision.

Mr. Shaath went on: "What happened will hurt (Israel) attempts to normalise relations with Islamic countries and is totally unacceptable."

The PLO official found some unexpected support from Israeli Police Minister Moshe Shahal.

"We should have let the ambassador in and told him to coordinate in advance next time. Israel has nothing to hide and every interest that the head of an Islamic country passes through an Israeli border post to visit Gaza," he said.

Pakistani television quoted

COLUMN

20 hurt as English civil war battle goes wrong

WITNEY, England (R) — Twenty people were hurt Sunday when a wall of flame raced across a field after a reenactment of a battle from England's 17th-century civil war got out of control. Burning wadding from a 300-year-old cannon, fired by the Sealed Knot Historical Society, set alight a field of stubble. Participants, in full costume as Republican Roundheads and Royalist Cavaliers, fled with spectators but 20 people were treated for minor burns and smoke inhalation, police said. "The flames raced through the car park and everyone ran different ways. Everybody just panicked. Flames rushed under the parked cars, I saw at least two ignite," one eyewitness said. Some 30 cars were damaged and a few destroyed in the mishap in a deer park at Witney near the city of Oxford in central England. The Sealed Knot, named after a royalist secret society, was recreating the Battle of Wadsworth Valley which took place nearby before Oliver Cromwell's parliamentarians won the war in 1645, headed King Charles and founded a short-lived republic.

Thieves break into U.K. jail, steal safe

LONDON (R) — Burglars broke into a British jail and stole a safe containing £750 (\$1,165), much of it prisoners' wages, the Daily Telegraph newspaper reported Monday. Prison authorities said the thieves, who cut through a seven-foot (two-metre) perimeter fence and forced two doors at the open jail near Wetherby in northern England, could have had inside information. Inmates were now complaining about lax security, the paper said.

3 Taiwan convicts escape after drugging guards

TAIPEI (R) — Three Taiwan convicts broke out of a Taipei jail by climbing over a wall after drugging two guards, tying up a third and stealing a uniform, police said Monday. Police launched an islandwide hunt for the three after their jailbreak Sunday, a police spokesman said. The three knocked out two guards with drugged tea during an exercise period, tied up a third and stole a uniform before scaling the prison wall with a ladder, police said. Two were serving life sentences for robbery and murder and the third man was doing a 13-year term, police said.

U.K. faces shortage of burial space — report

LONDON (R) — Britain is under pressure to empower local authorities to disinter human remains and reuse graves to help overcome the shortage of space in the country's cemeteries, the Financial Times reported Monday. The newspaper quoted Ian Hussein, national secretary of the Institute of Burial and Cremation Administration, as saying the issue was one the government would have to face sooner or later because of a worsening problem with burial space in London and other large cities. The institute, representing the administrators of Britain's cemeteries and crematoria, has drawn up proposals that would allow local authorities to make room for new bodies in old graves by placing the original occupants' remains in new caskets and burying them deeper. The newspaper said authorities would be able to do this on plots where 75 years had elapsed since the last interment, but living relatives would be able to renew their family's rights over the site for a further 75 years. "It is not clear how ministers would react, but the idea has not been ruled out," said the Financial Times. It quoted Scottish Office Minister Allan Stewart as saying in a parliamentary reply: "The reuse of graves would involve the disturbance of remains, which would be unacceptable to many people, and the implications would need careful and sensitive consideration."

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